

54. The recombinant vector according to claim 53 wherein said additional gene encodes a protein.

55. The recombinant vector of claim 54 wherein said protein is an immune accessory molecule.

56. The recombinant vector of claim 55 wherein said immune accessory molecule is selected from the group consisting of IL-1, IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, IL-9, IL-10, IL-11, IL-12, B7, B7-2, GM-CSF, CD3, ICAM-1, β -microglobulin, LFA-3, HLA Class I and HLA Class II molecules.

57. The recombinant vector of claim 54 wherein said protein is gamma-interferon.

58. A recombinant viral vector according to any one of claims 1 to 6 for use in inhibiting a pathogenic agent in a warm-blooded animal.

59. A recombinant viral vector according to any one of claims 7 to 57 for use in a method of destroying a pathogenic agent in a warm-blooded animal.

60. The recombinant viral vector according to claims 58 or 59 wherein said pathogenic agent is selected from the group consisting of virus-infected cells and a cell infected with bacteria.

61. The recombinant viral vector according to claims 58 or 59 wherein said pathogenic agent is a tumor cell.

62. The recombinant viral vector according to claims 58 or 59, wherein said pathogenic agent is an autoreactive immune cell.

63. A producer cell which generates a recombinant viral vector according to any one of claims 1 to 57.

64. A producer cell according to claim 63 for use in a method of destroying a pathogenic agent in a warm-blooded animal.

65. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a recombinant viral vector according to any one of claims 1 to 57, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

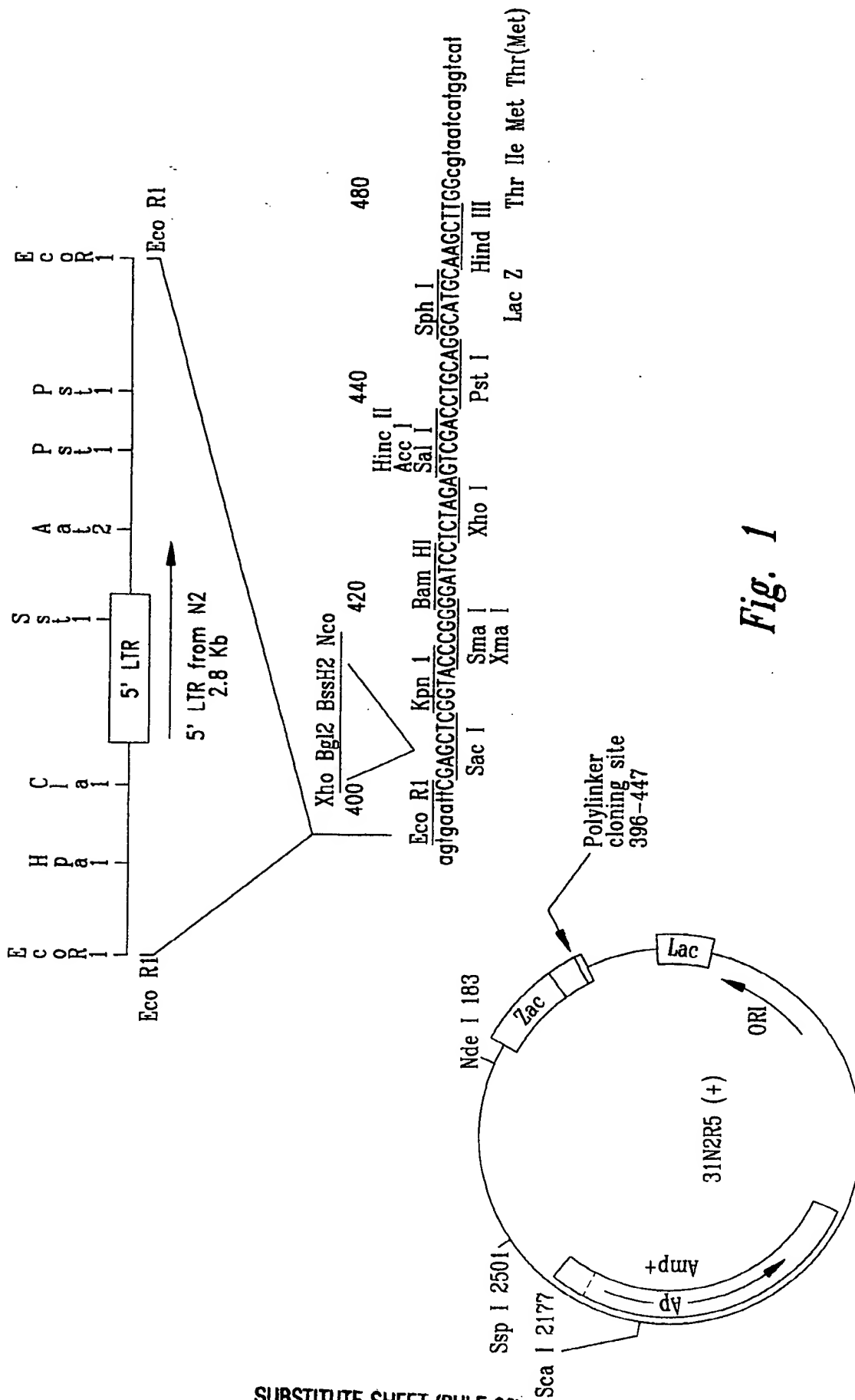
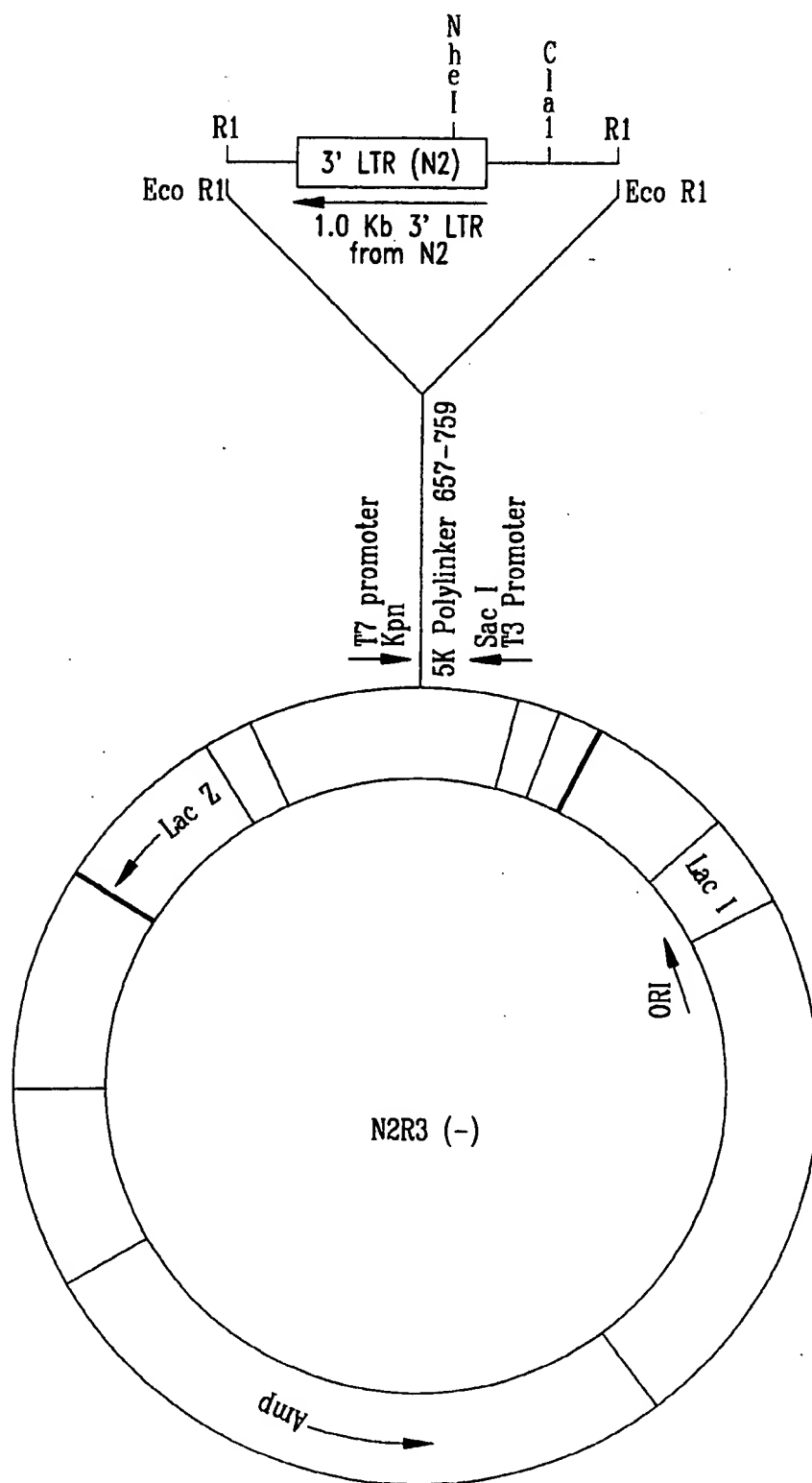


Fig. 1

*Fig. 2*

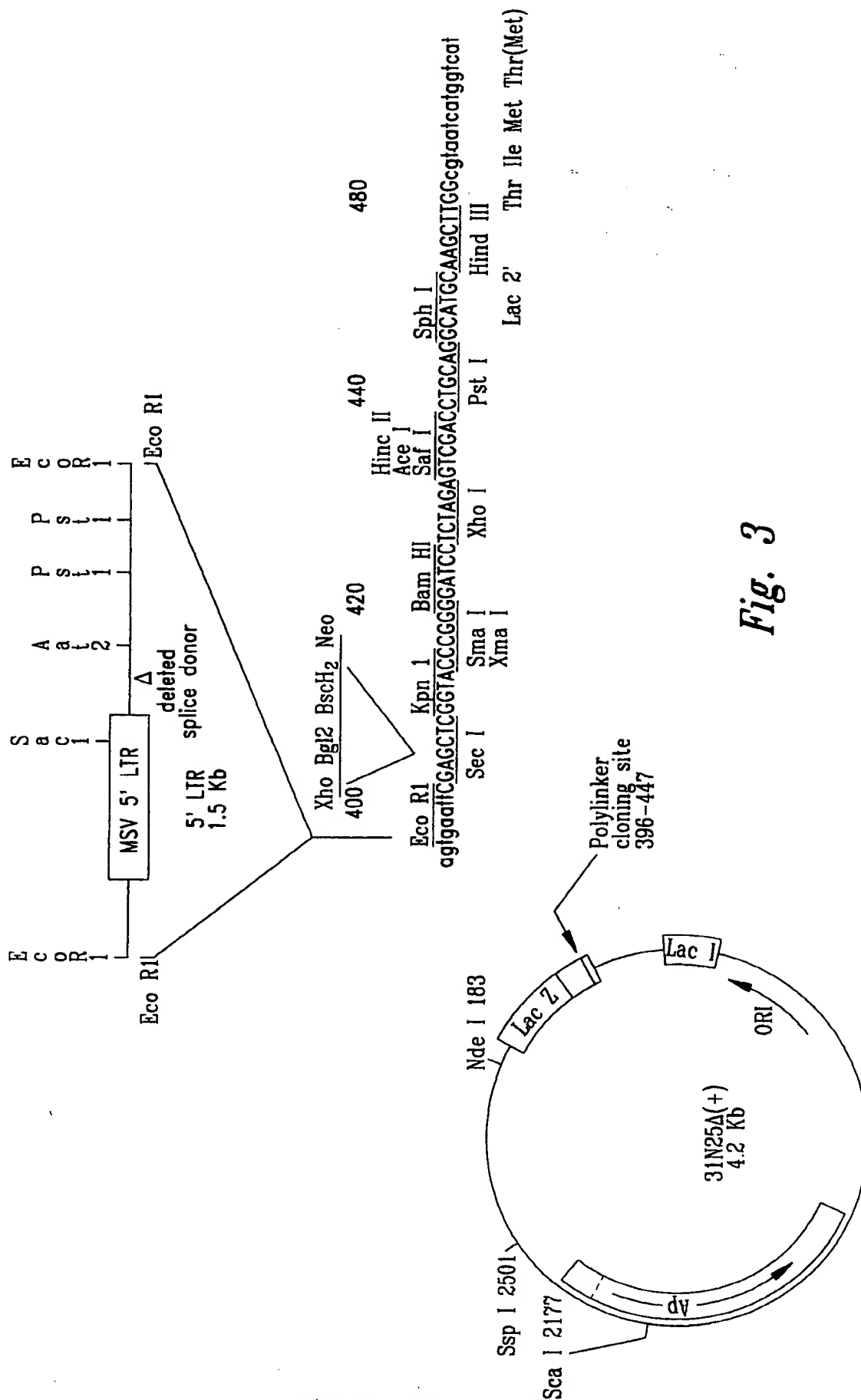


Fig. 3

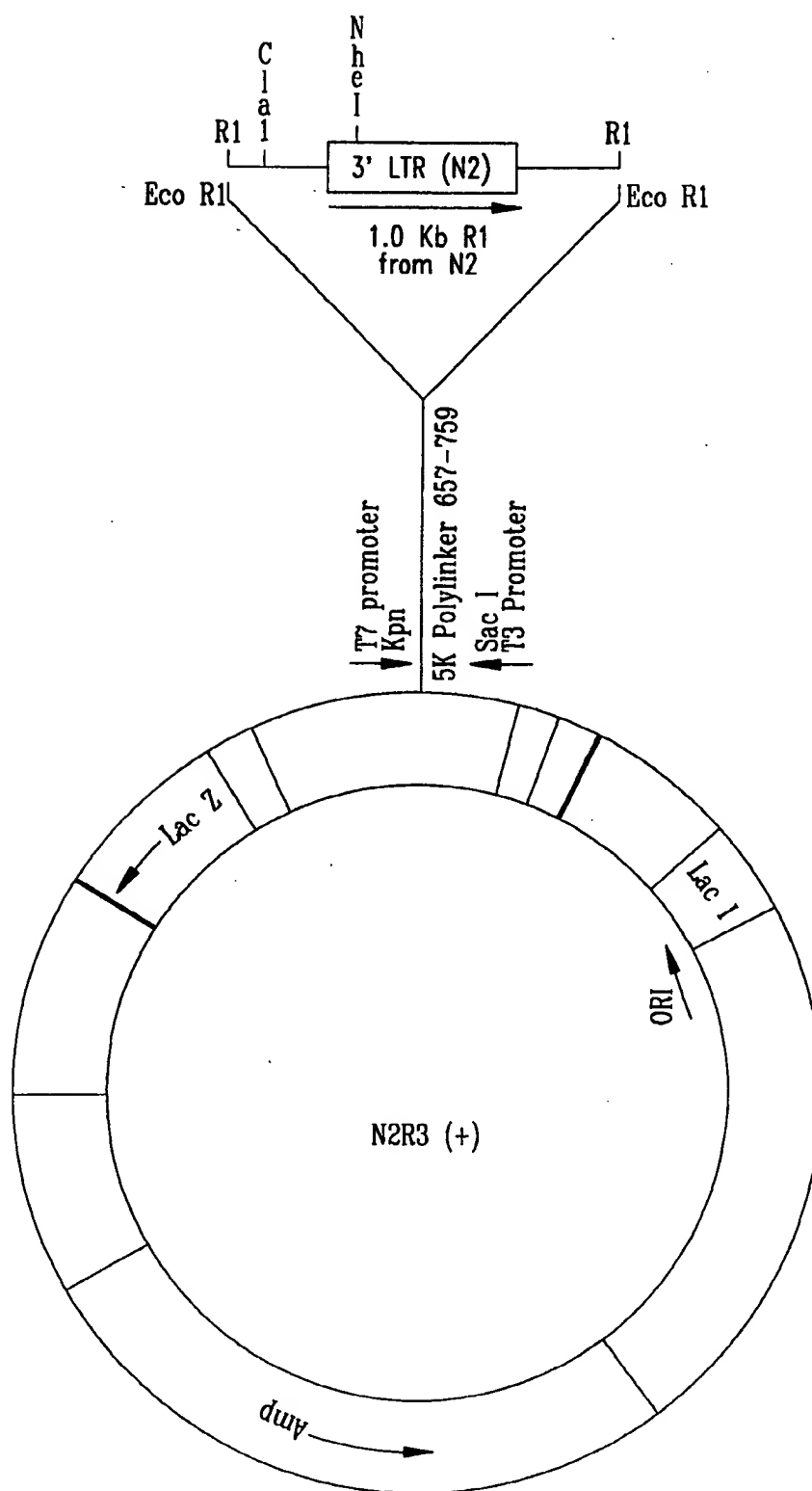


Fig. 4

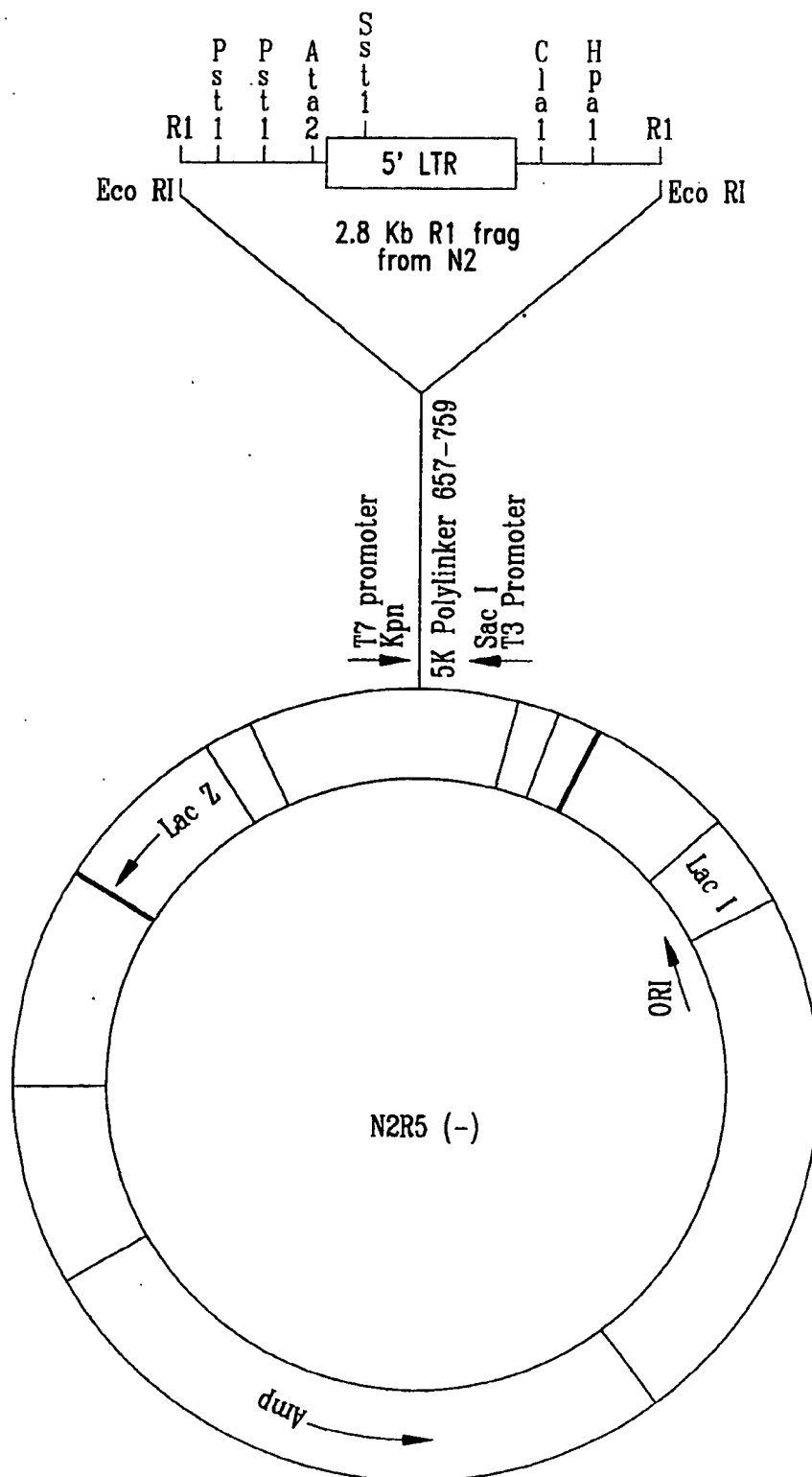
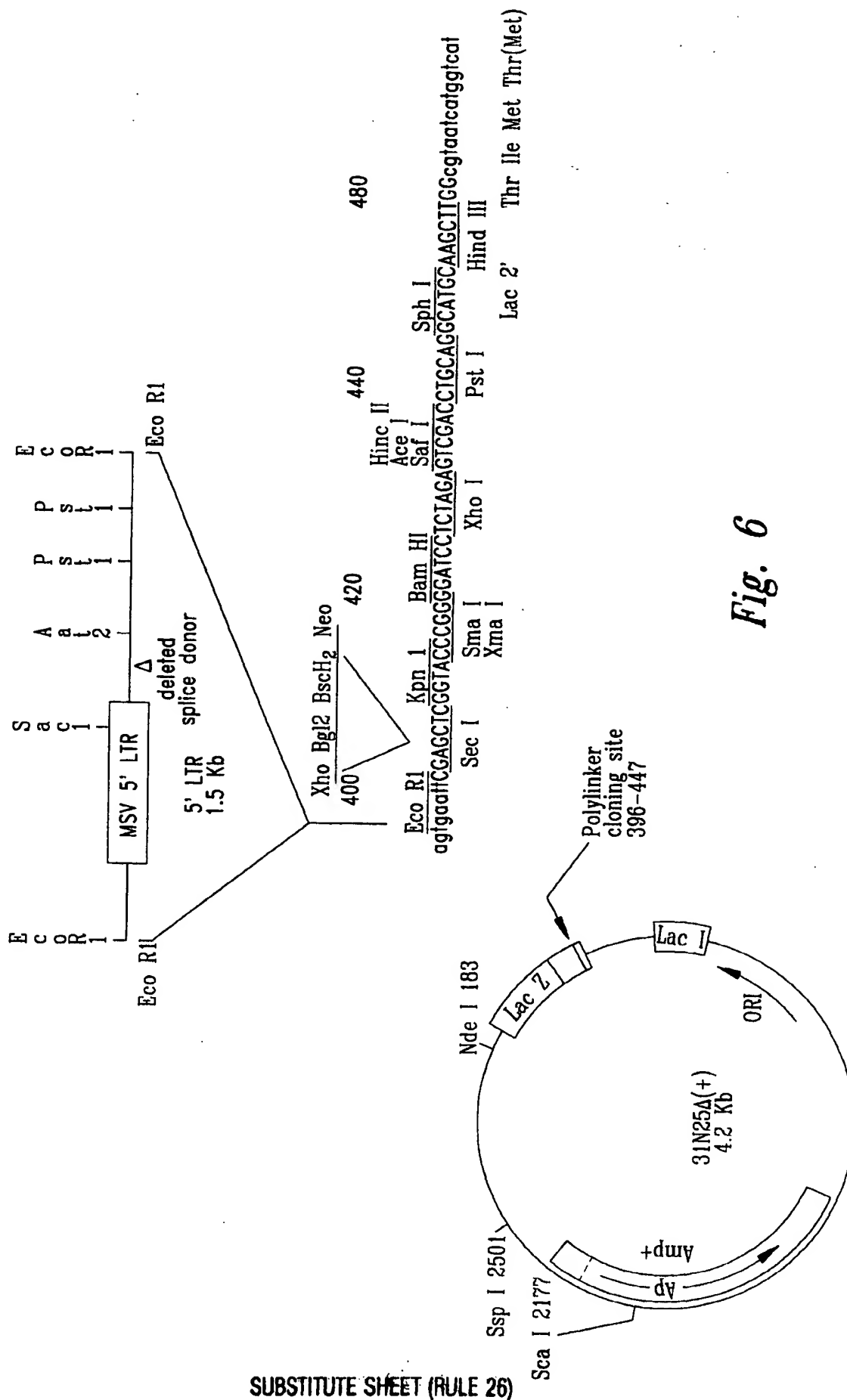


Fig. 5



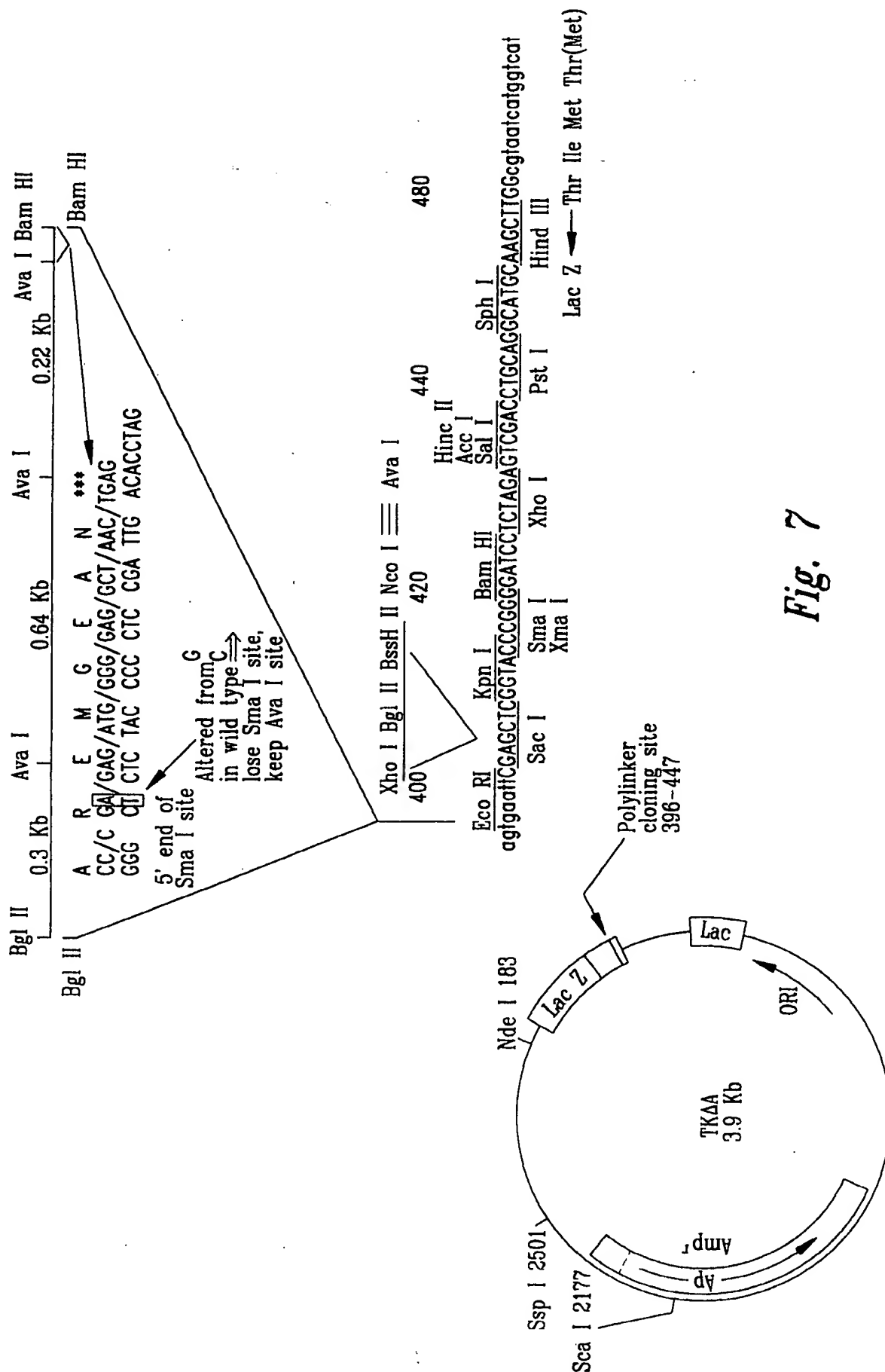
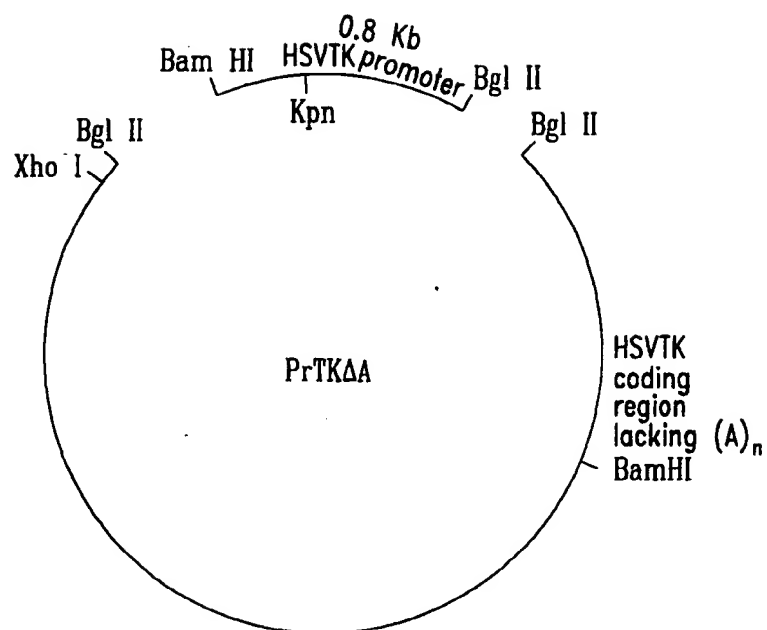
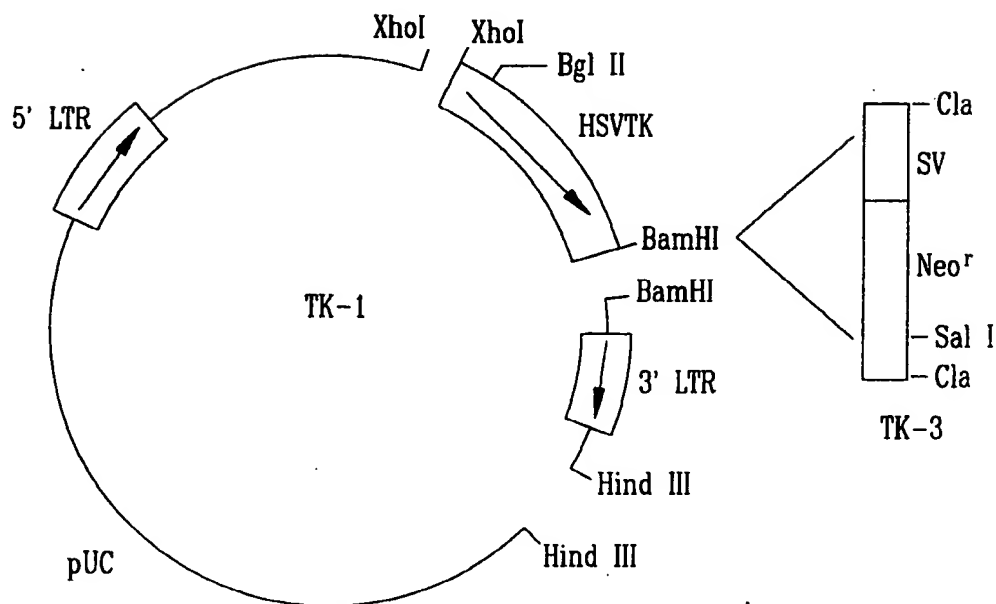
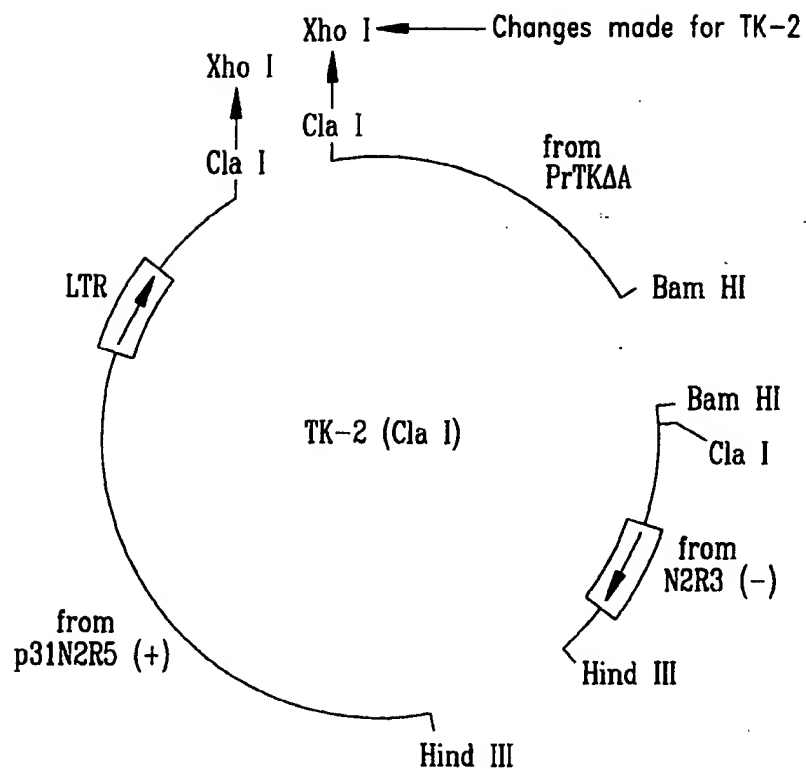
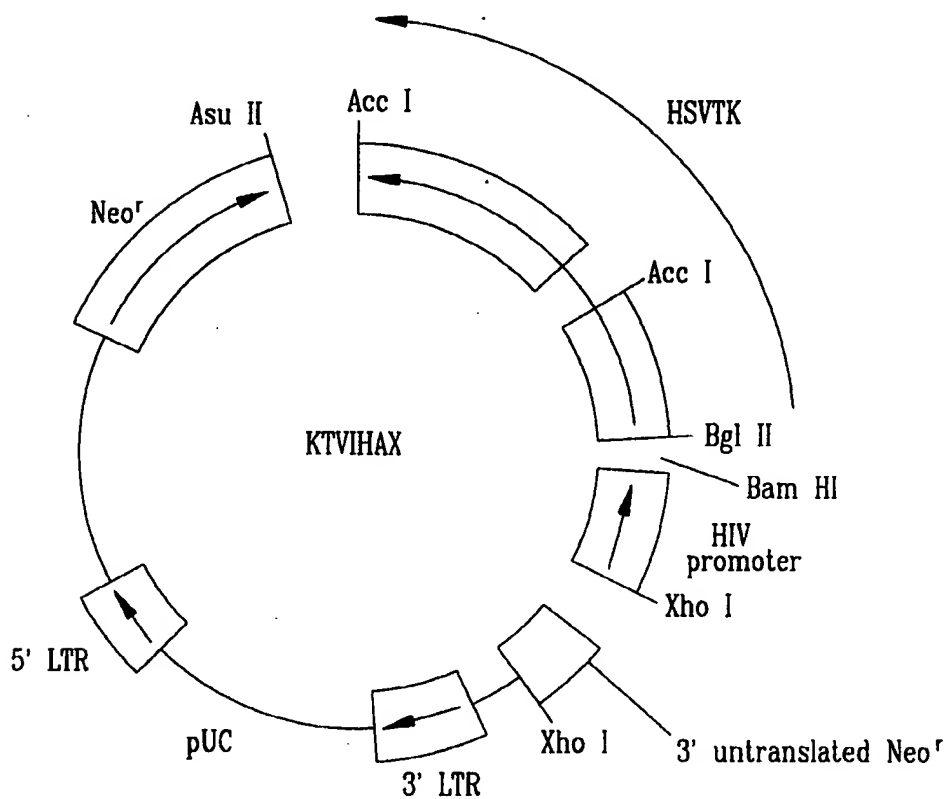
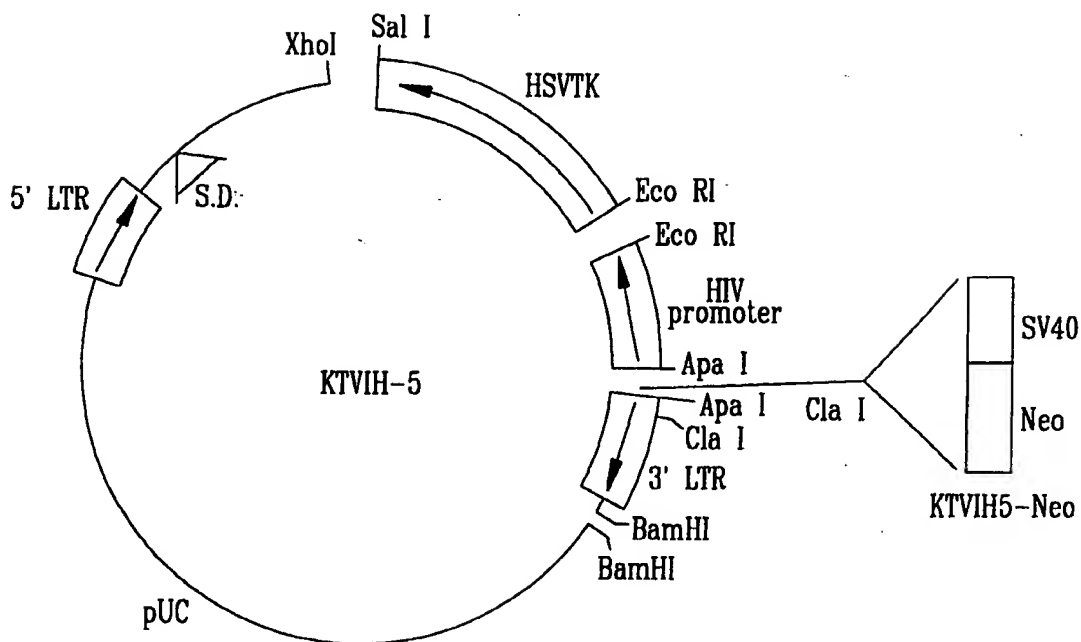
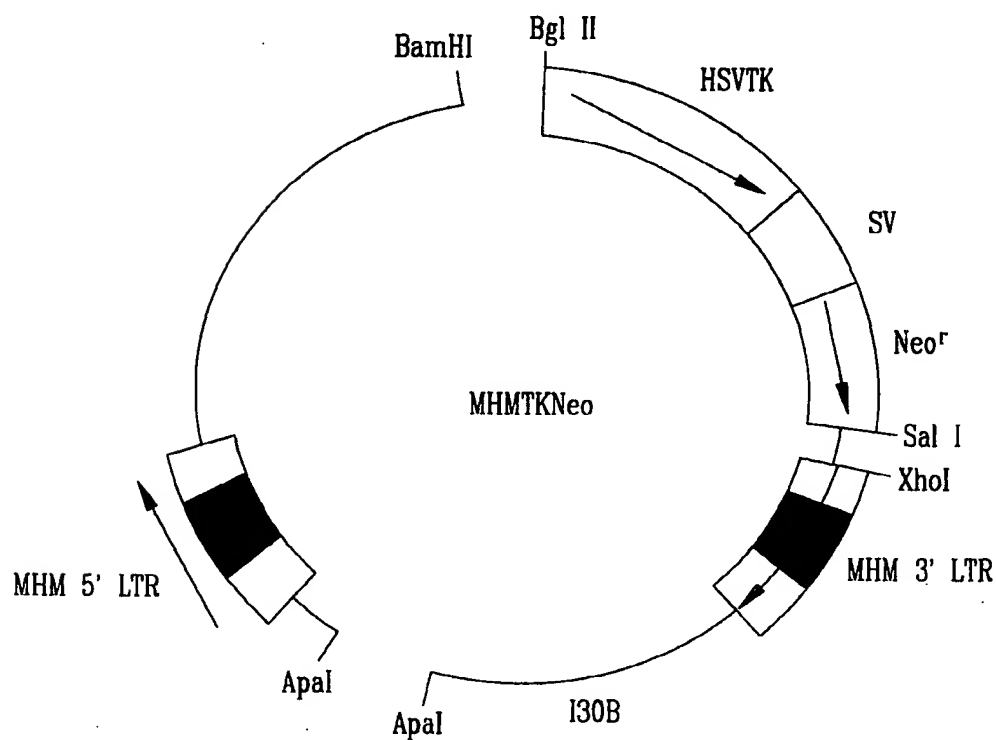


Fig. 7

*Fig. 8**Fig. 9*

*Fig. 10**Fig. 11*

*Fig. 12**Fig. 14*

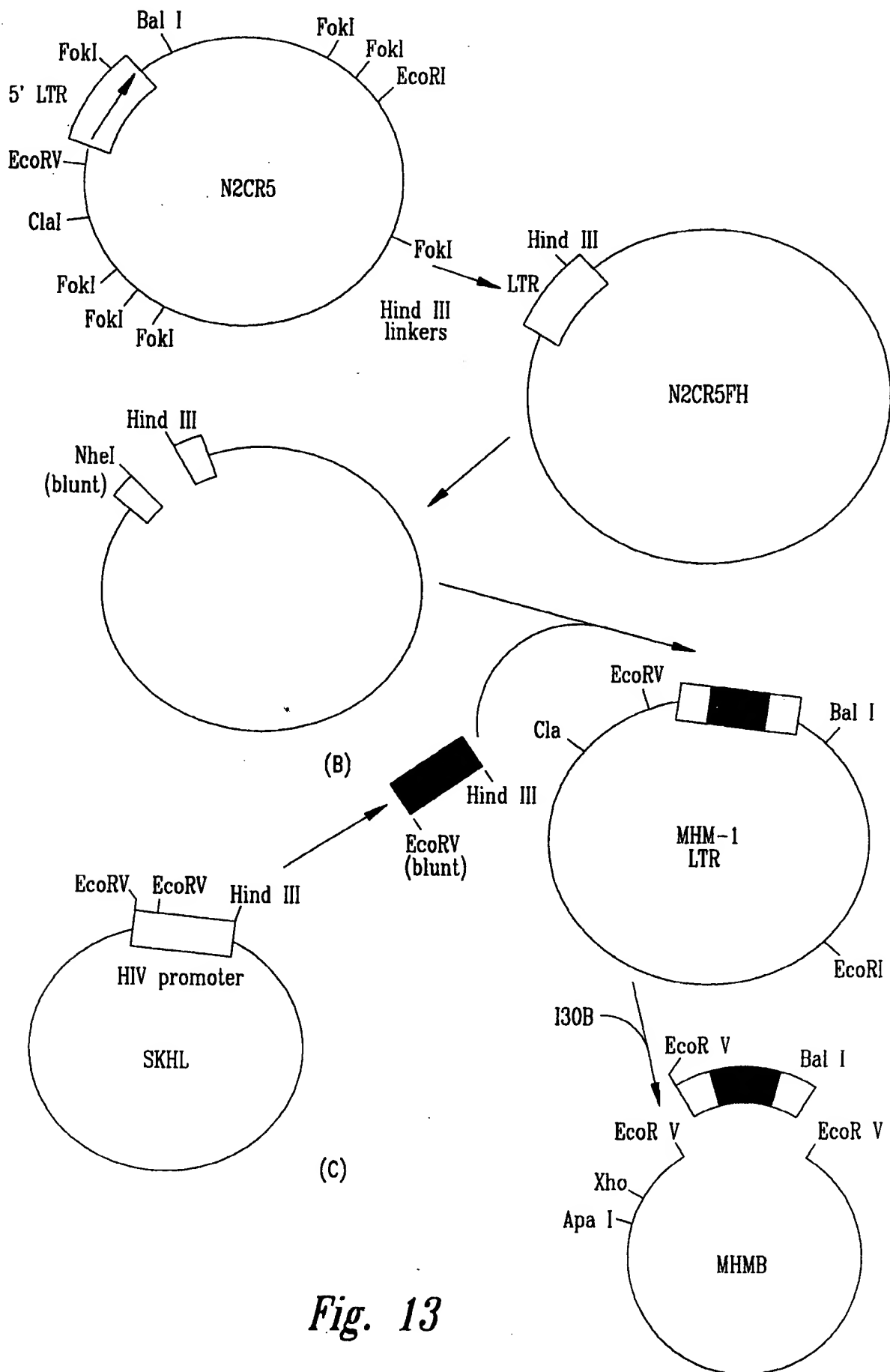


Fig. 13

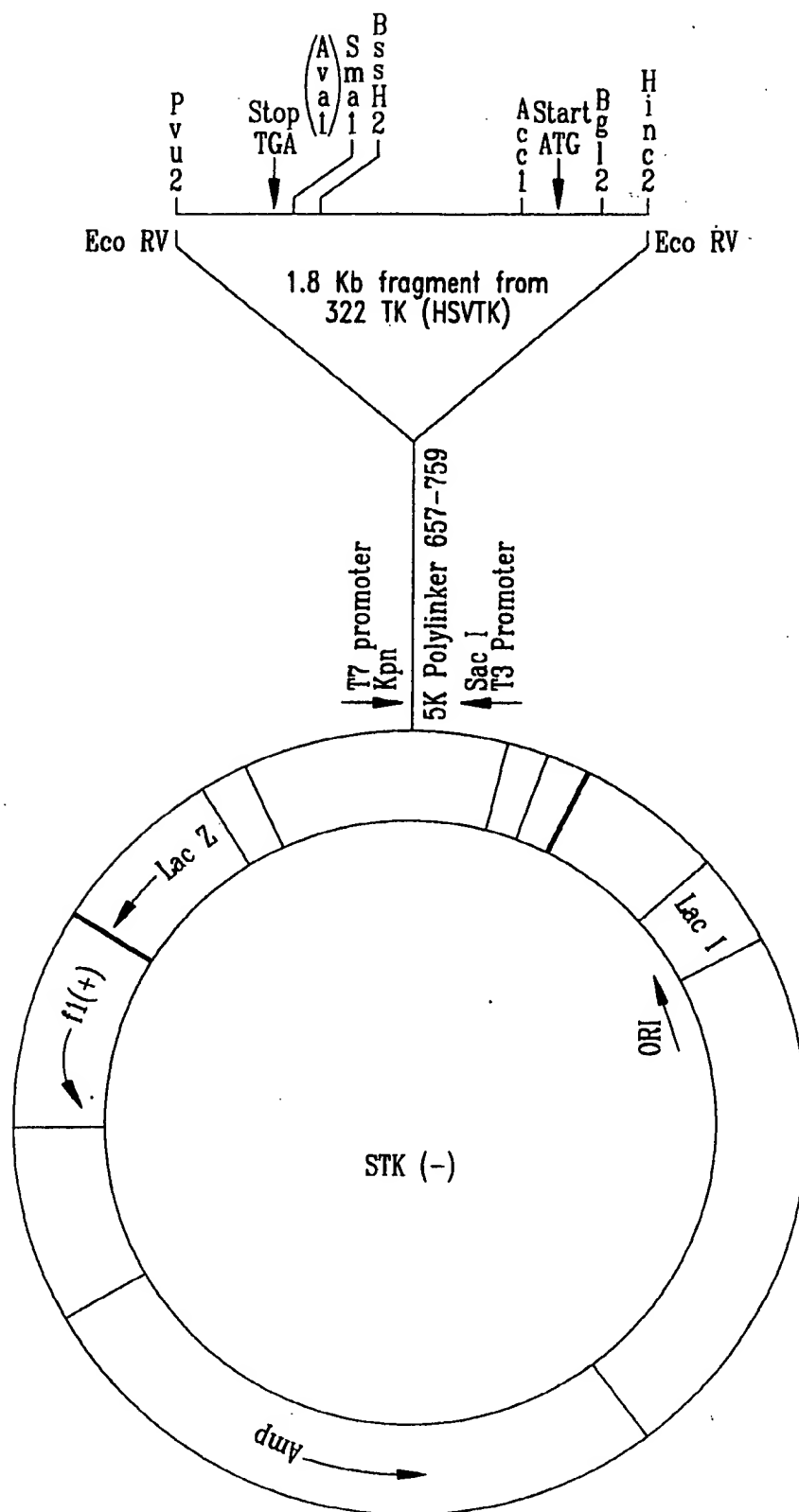
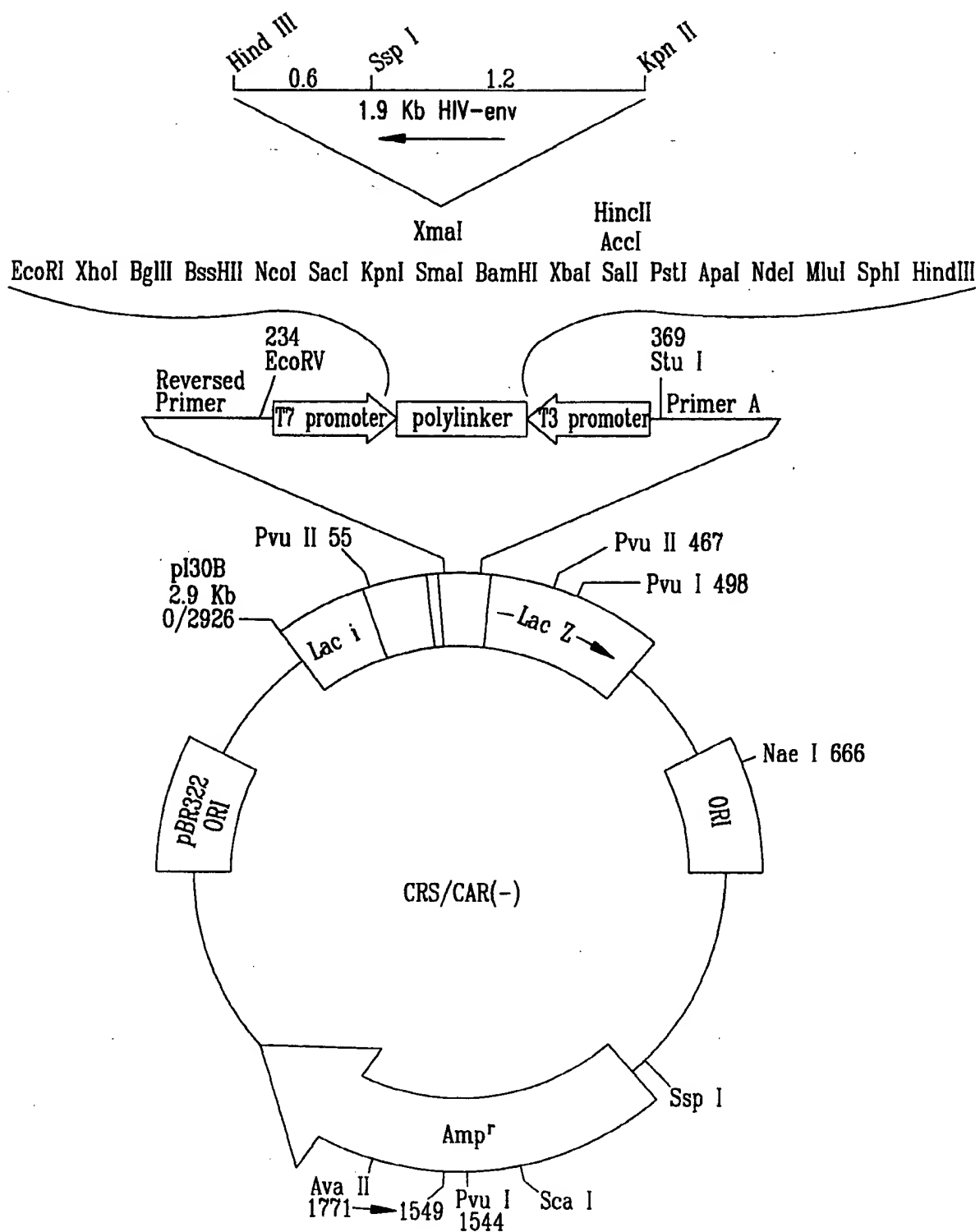
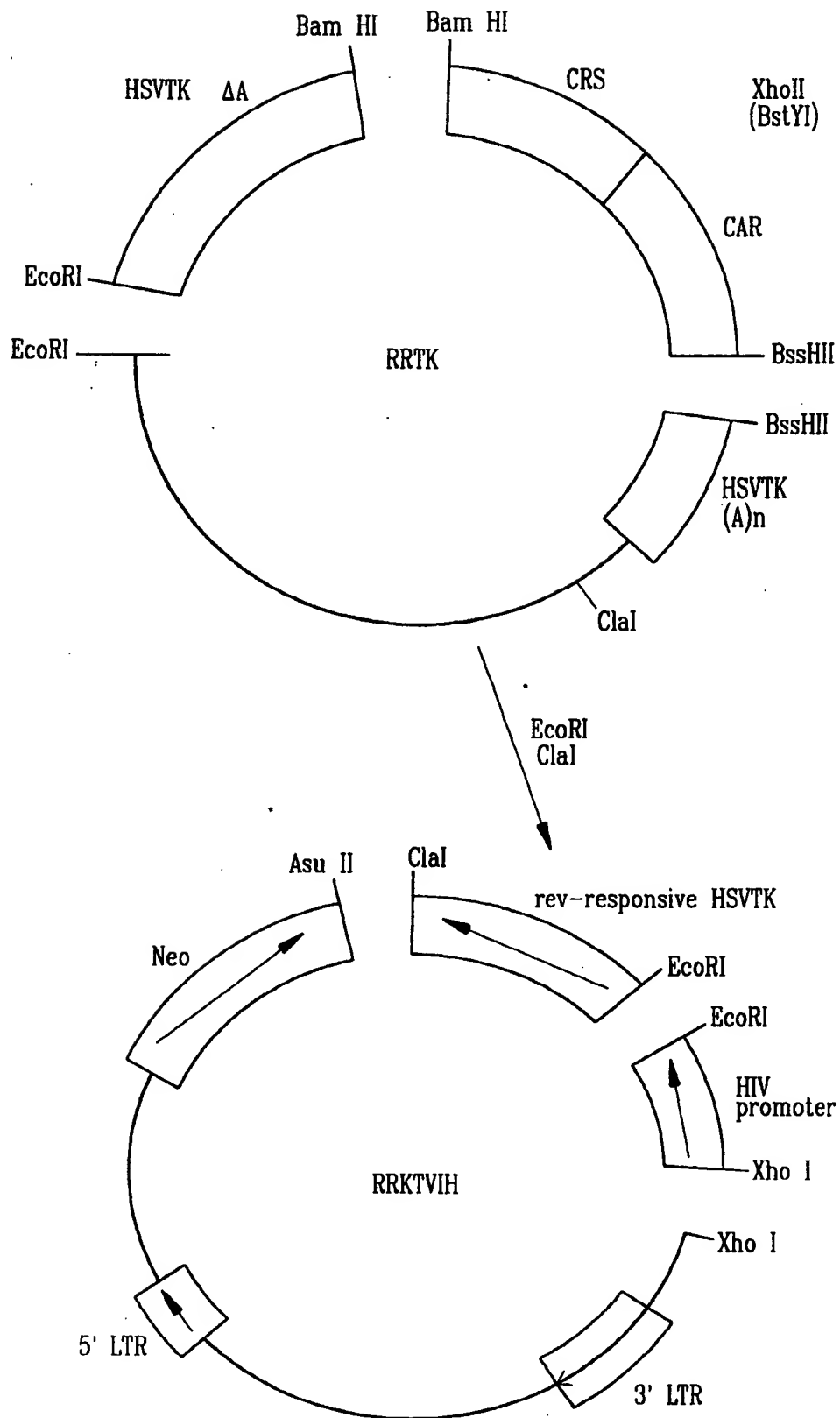


Fig. 15

*Fig. 16*

*Fig. 17*

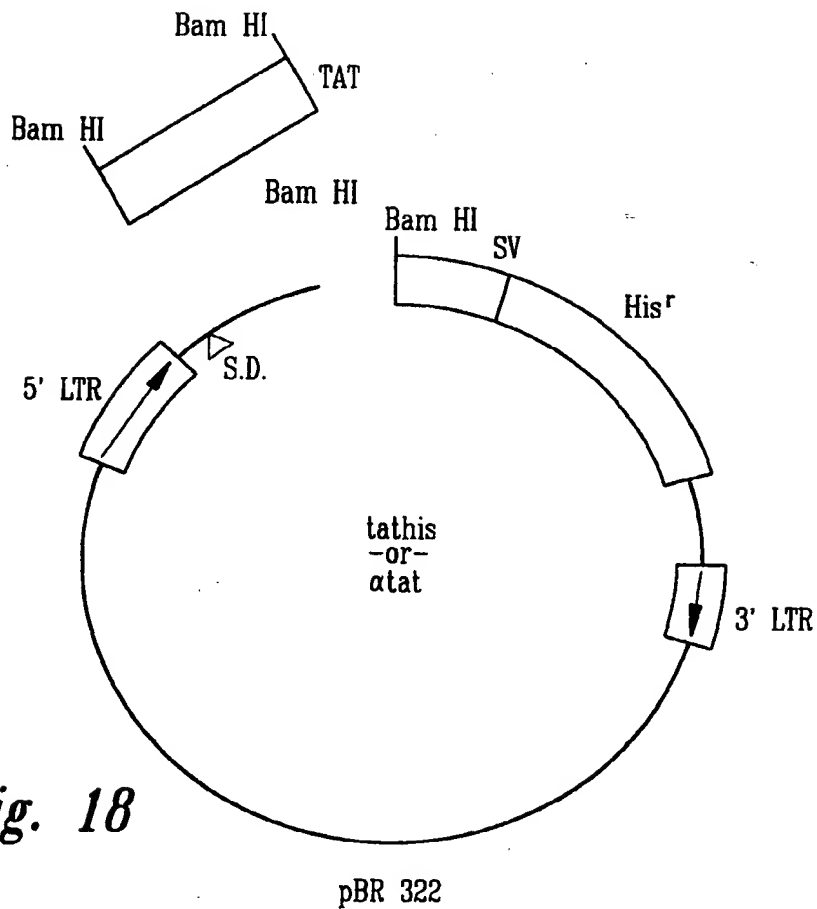


Fig. 18

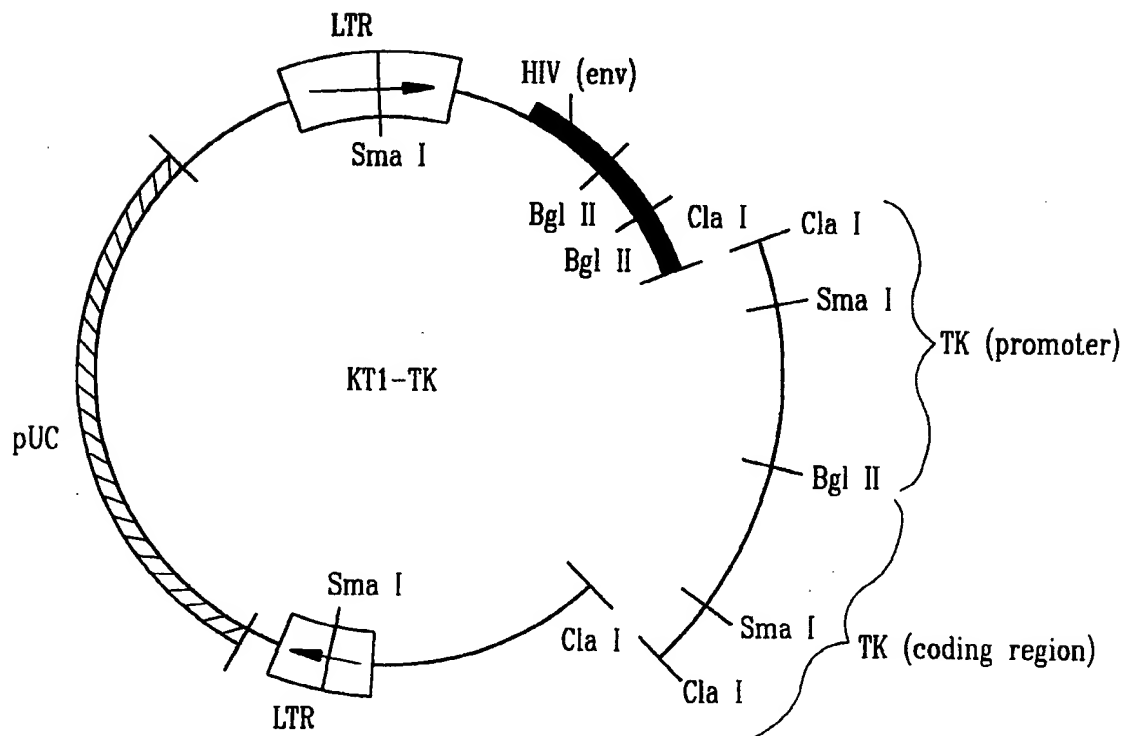
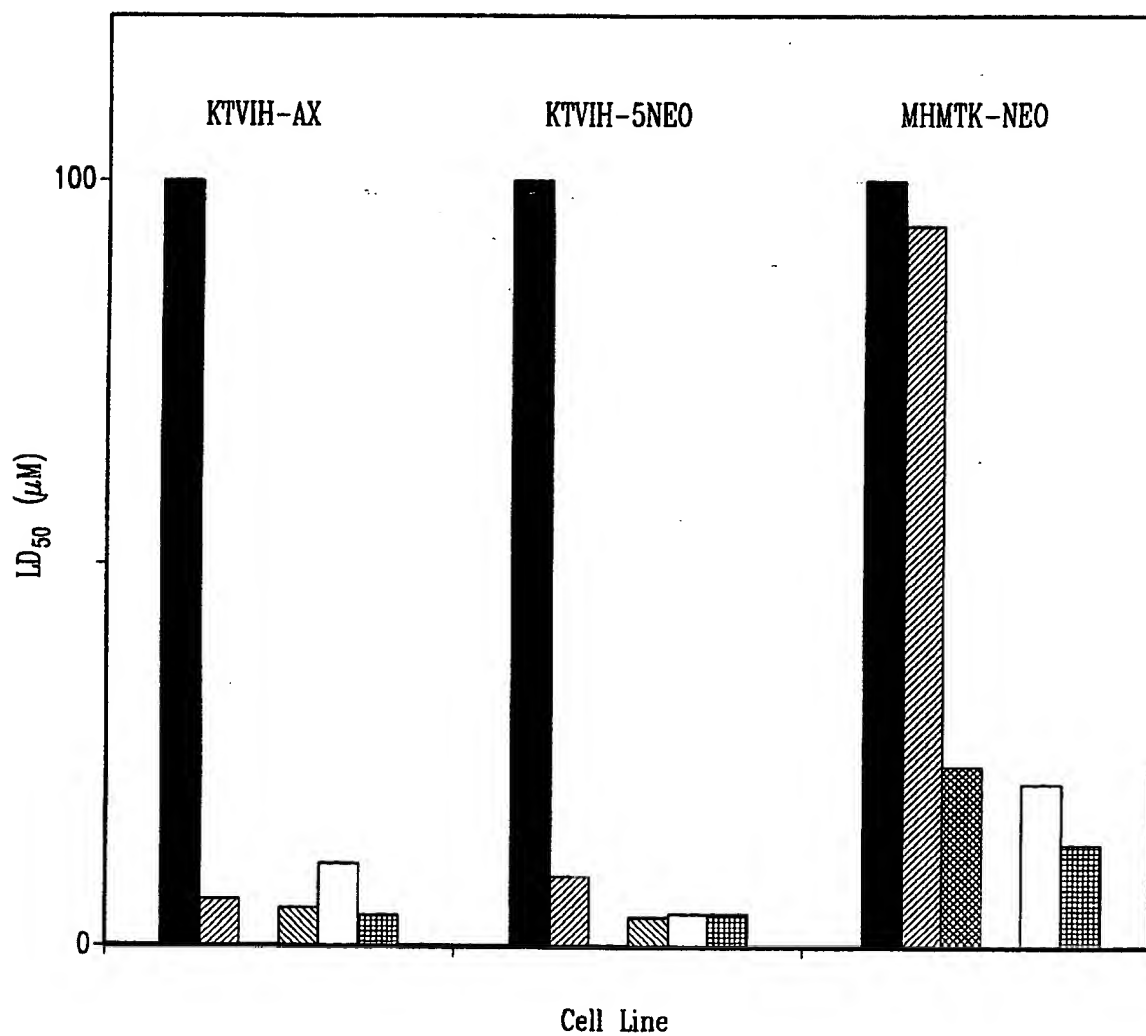
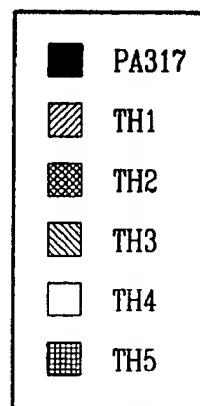
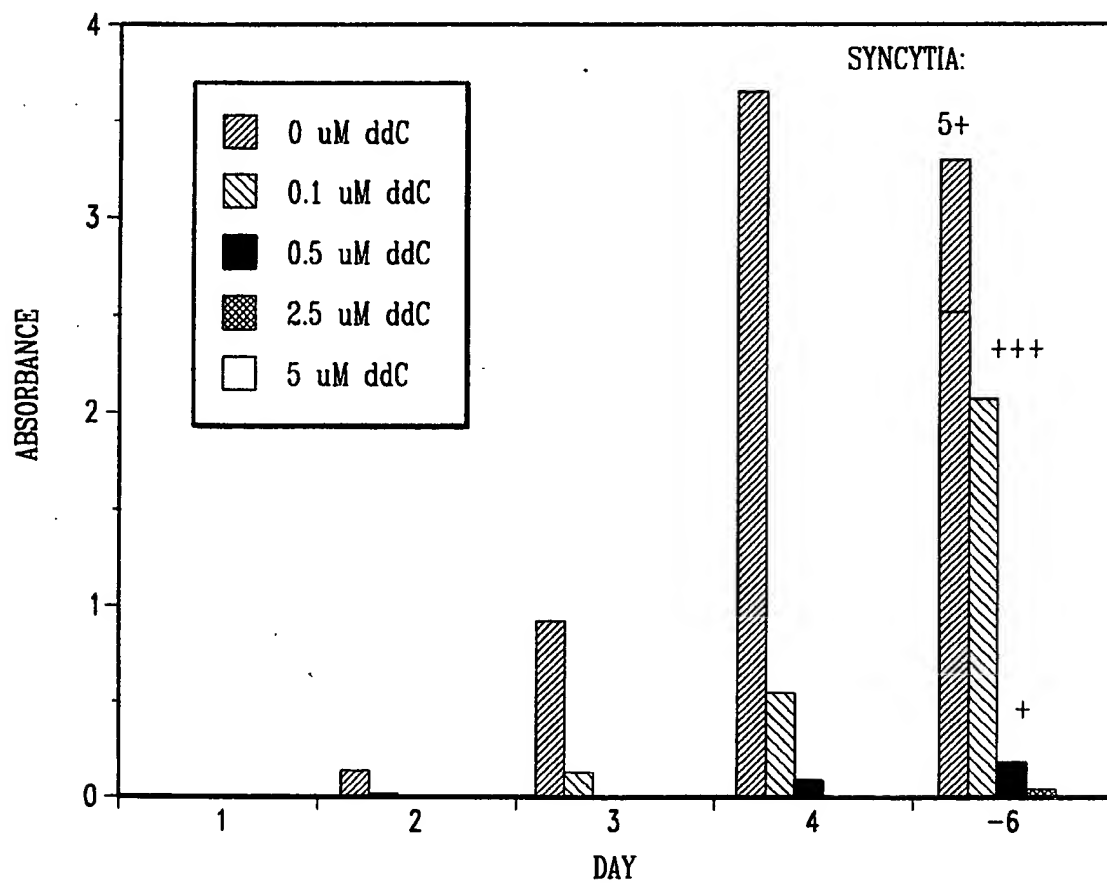
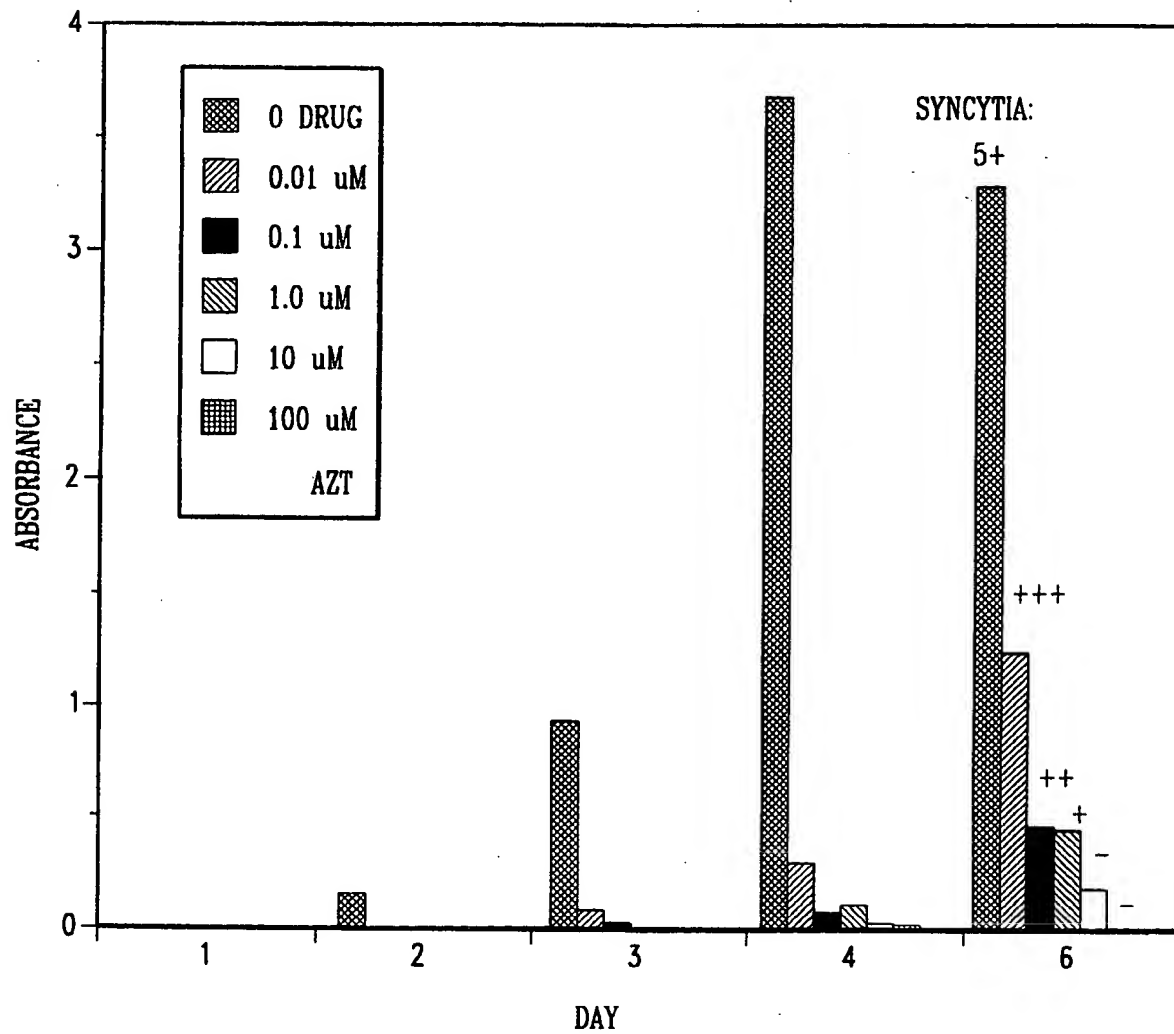
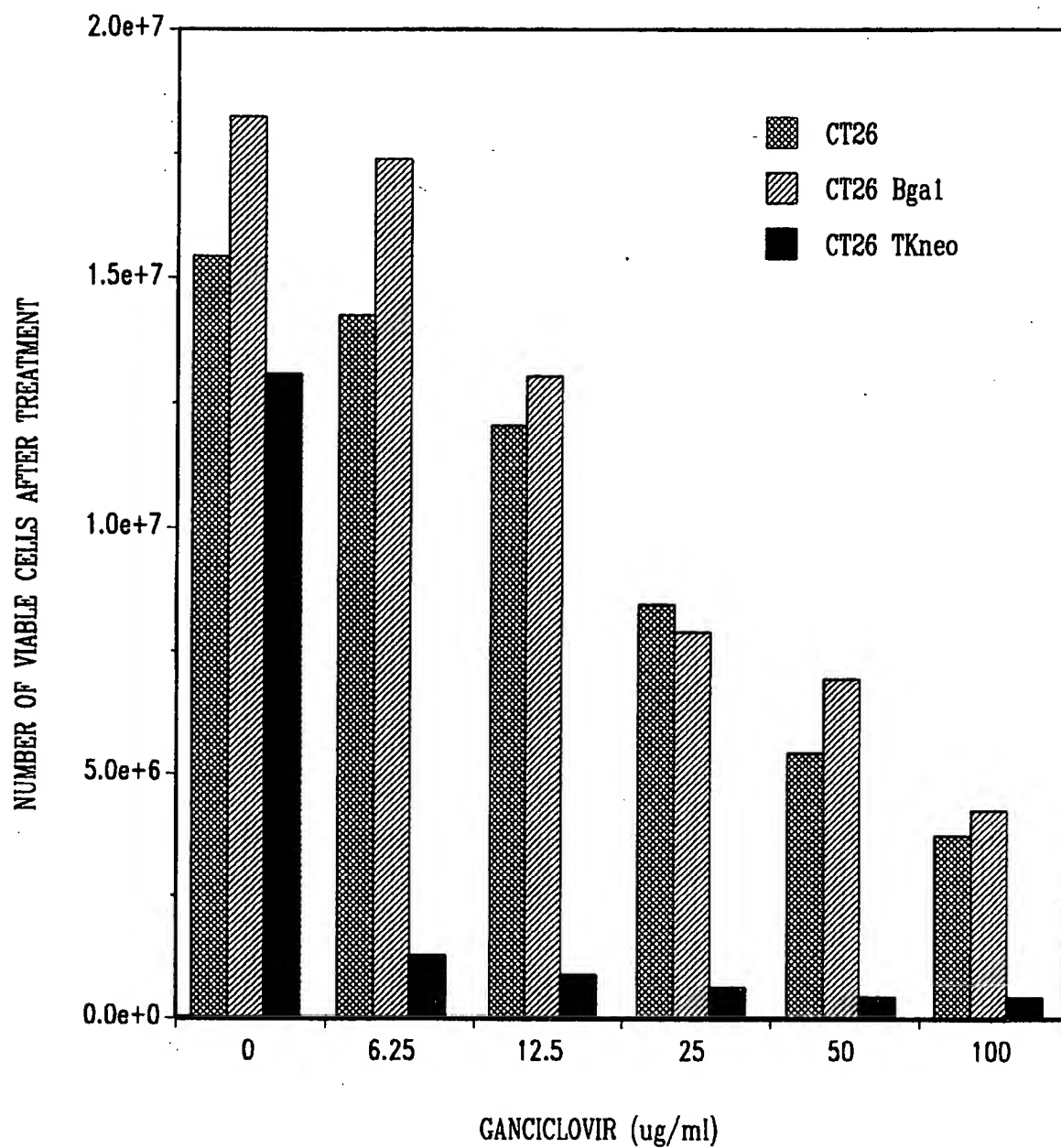


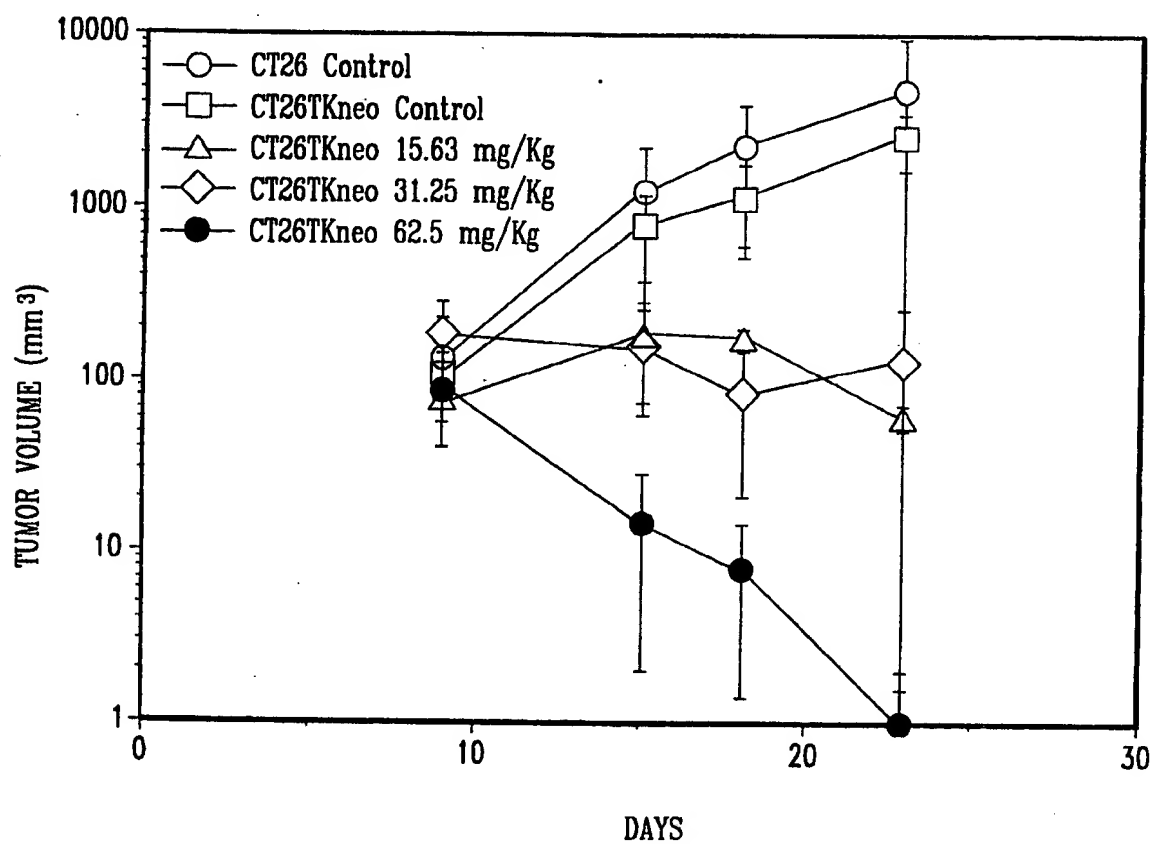
Fig. 28

*Fig. 19*

*Fig. 20*

*Fig. 21*

*Fig. 22*

*Fig. 23*

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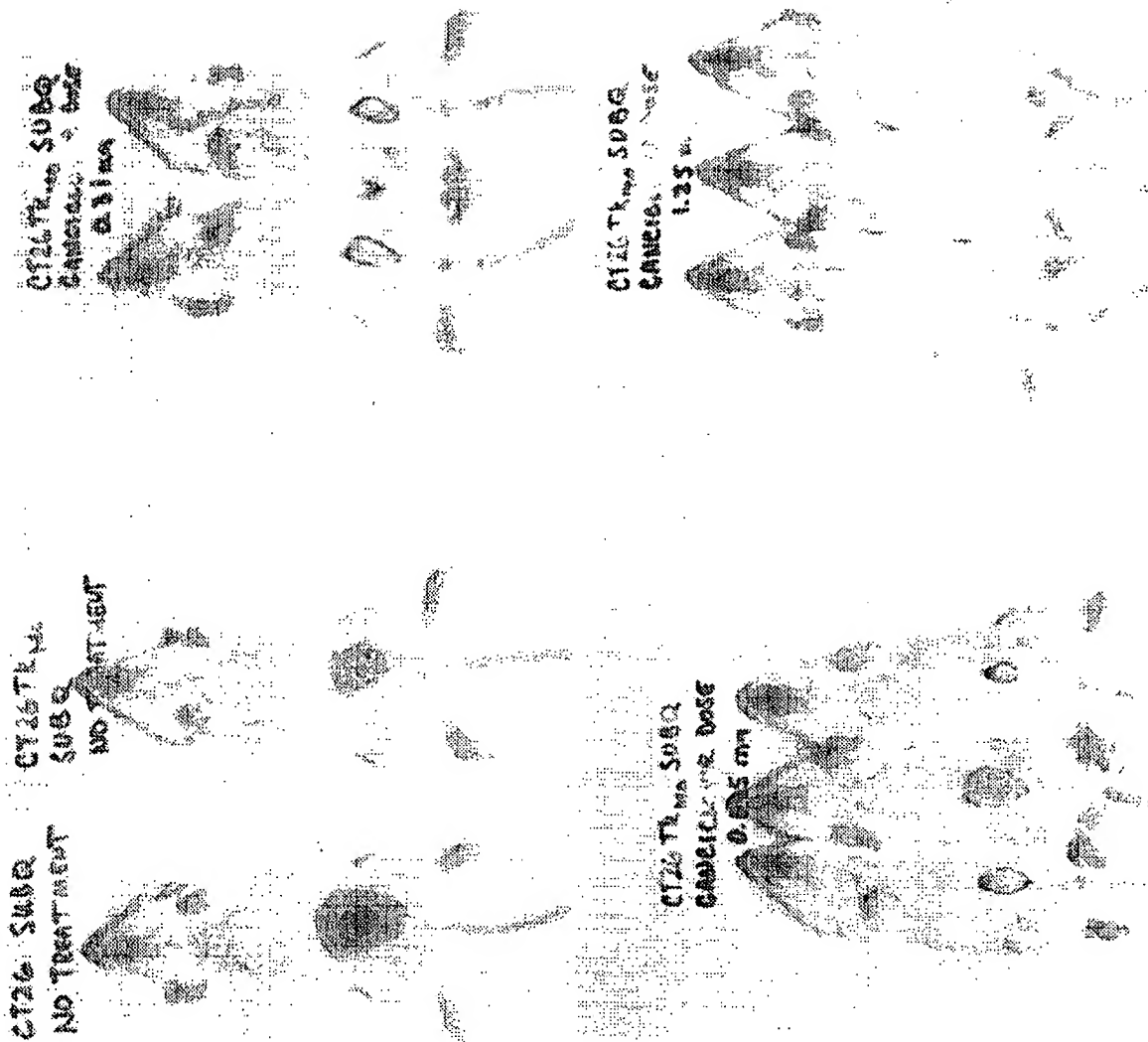


FIG. 24

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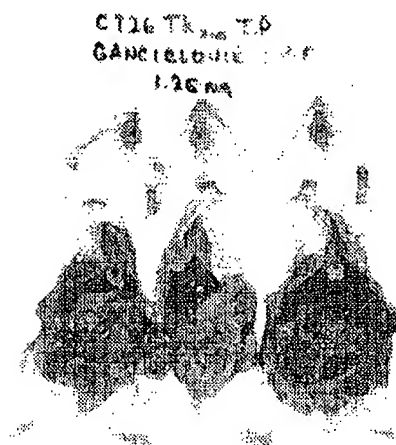
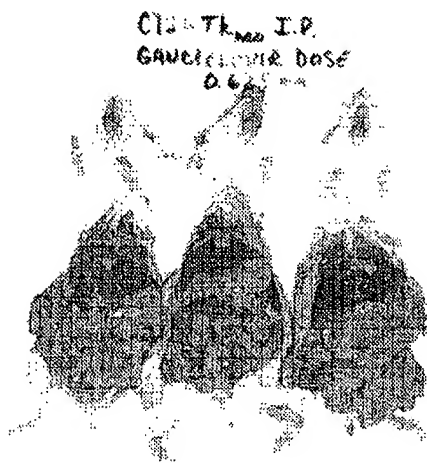
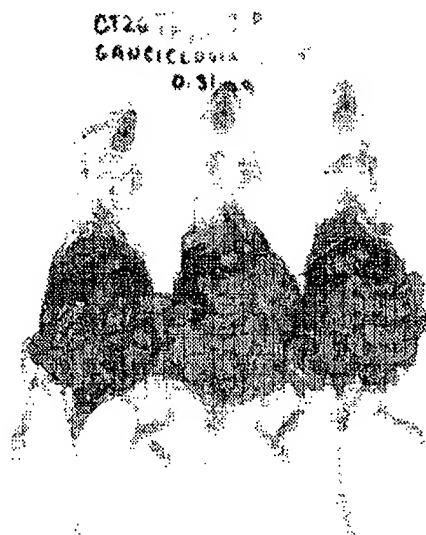
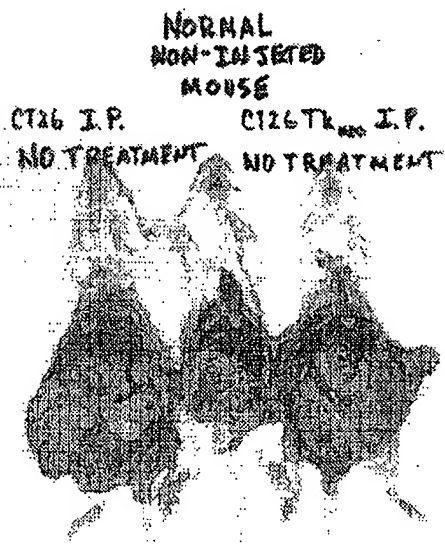
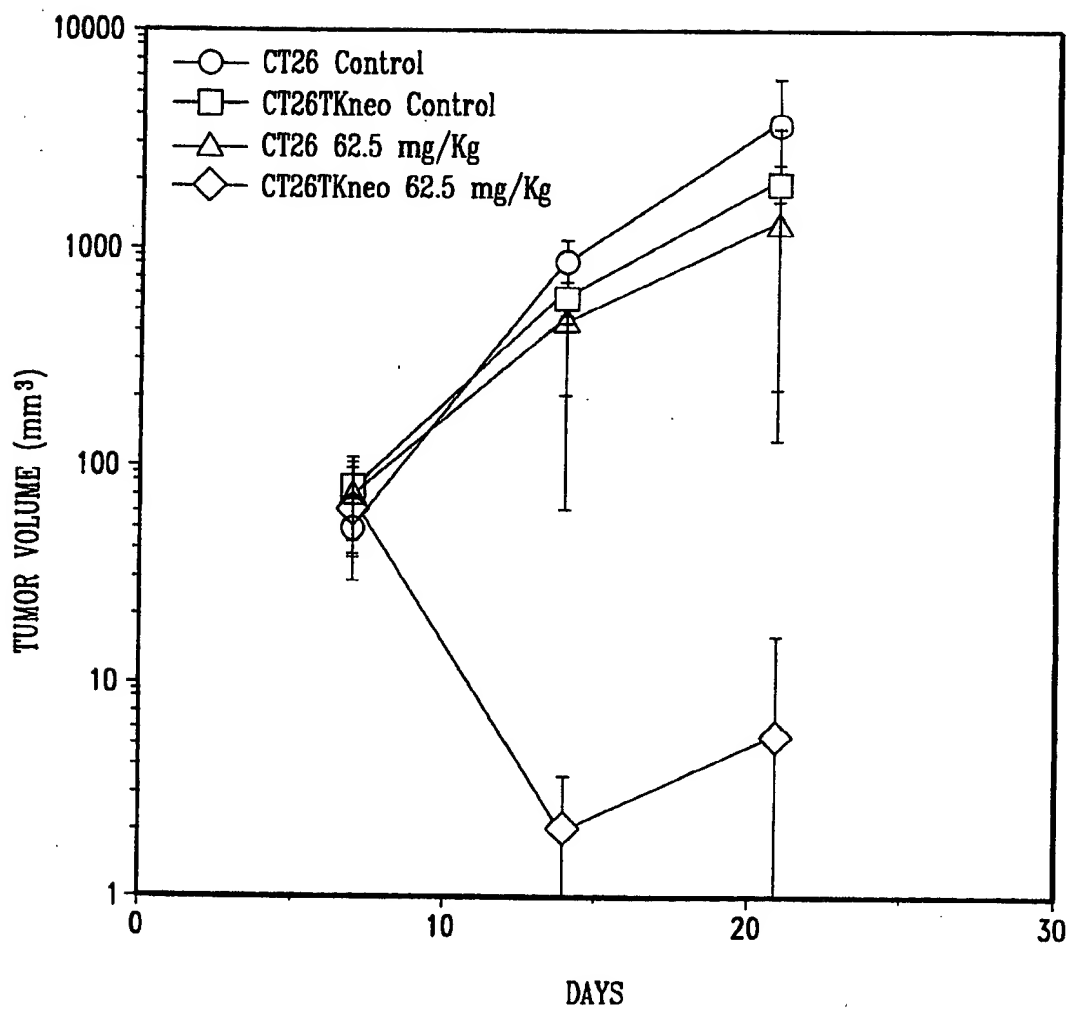
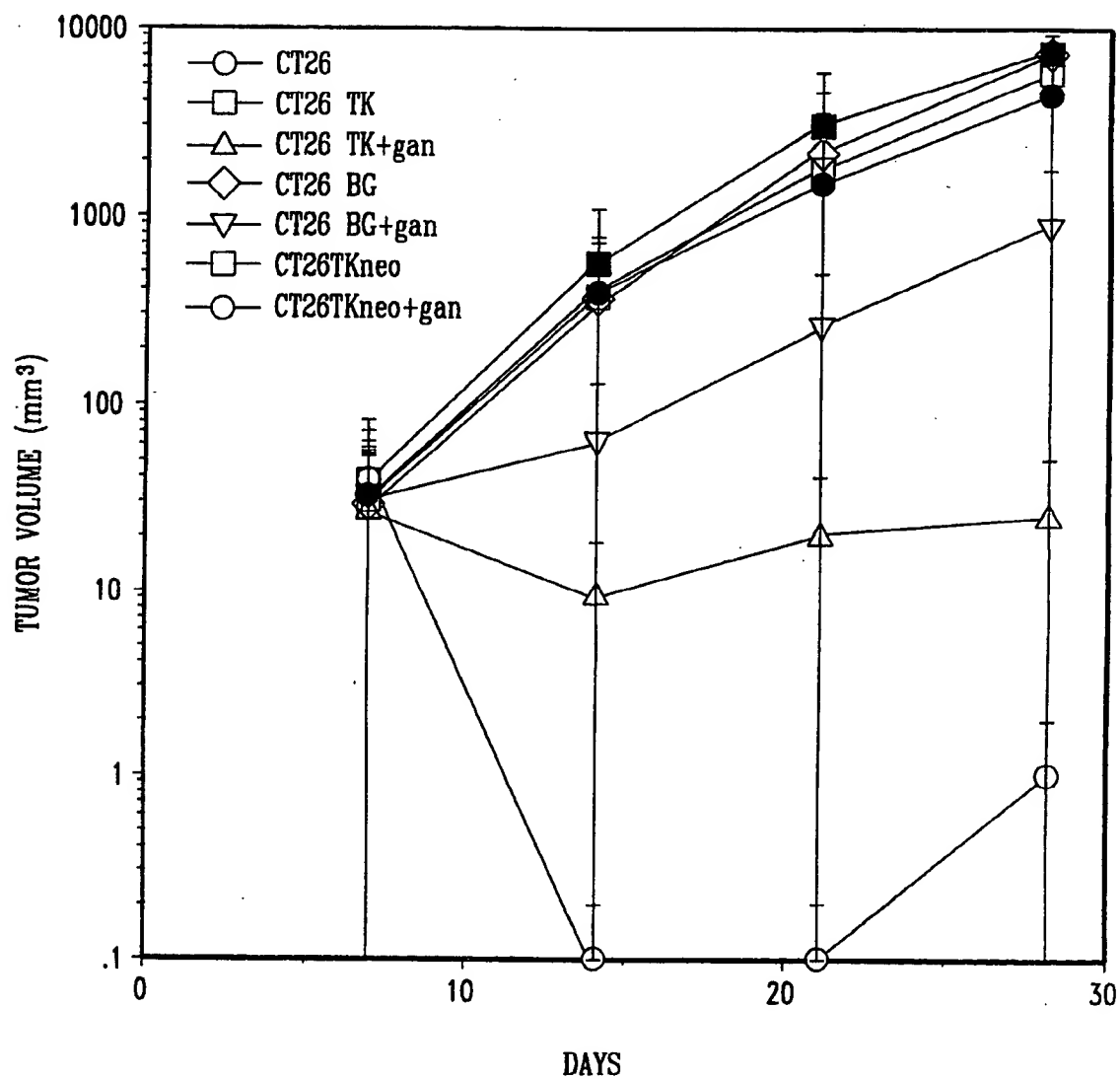
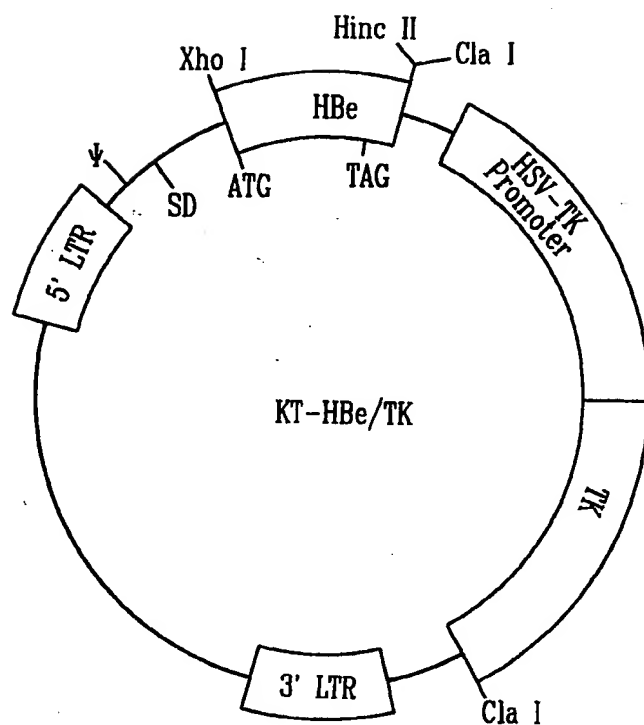
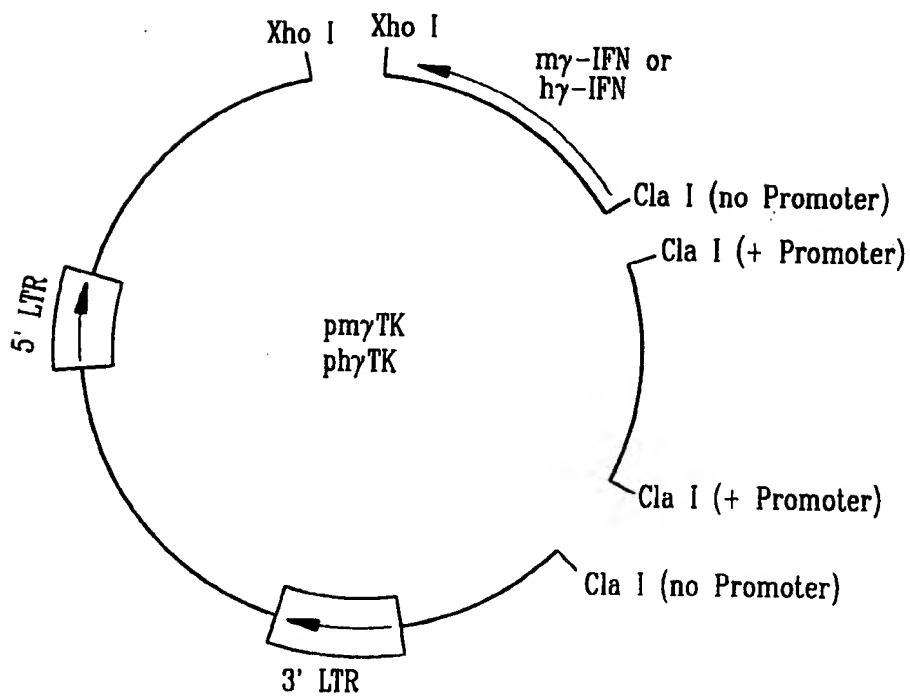
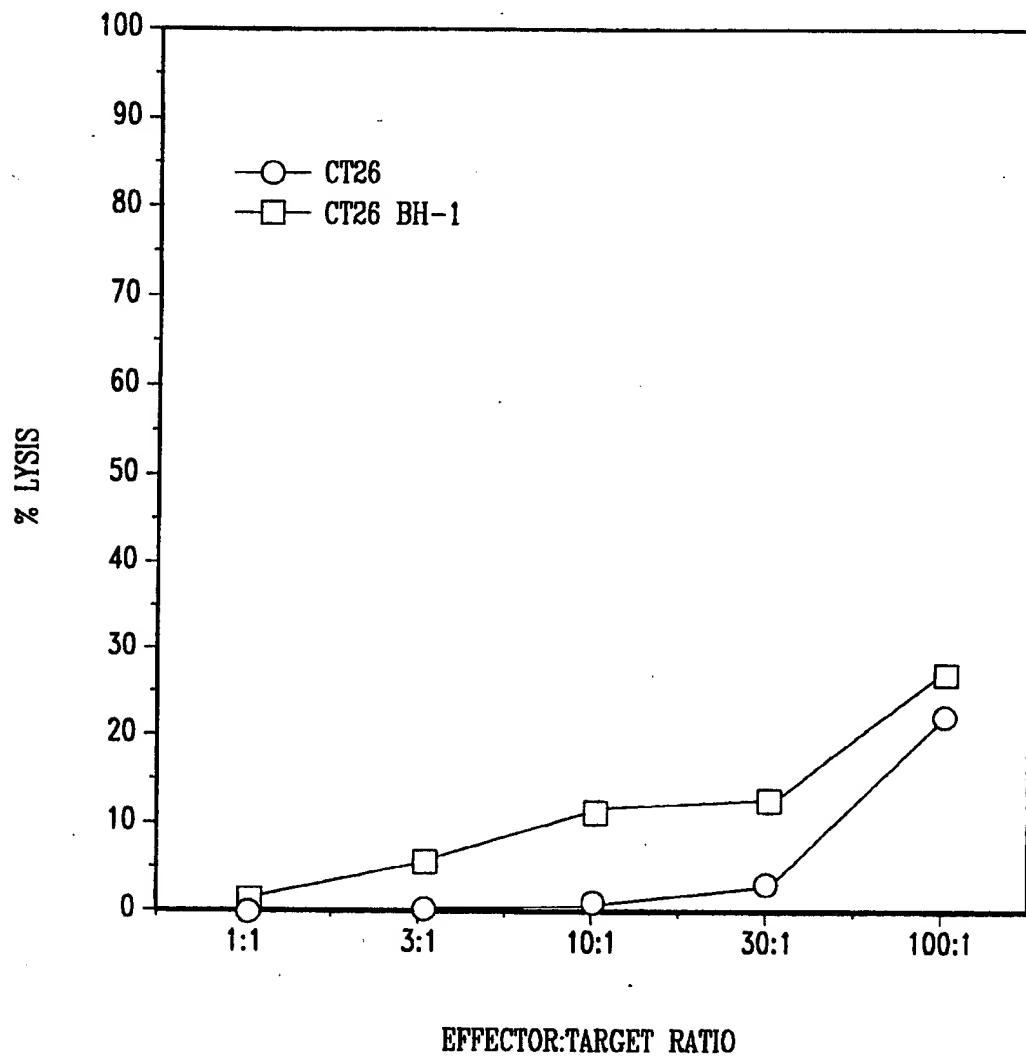


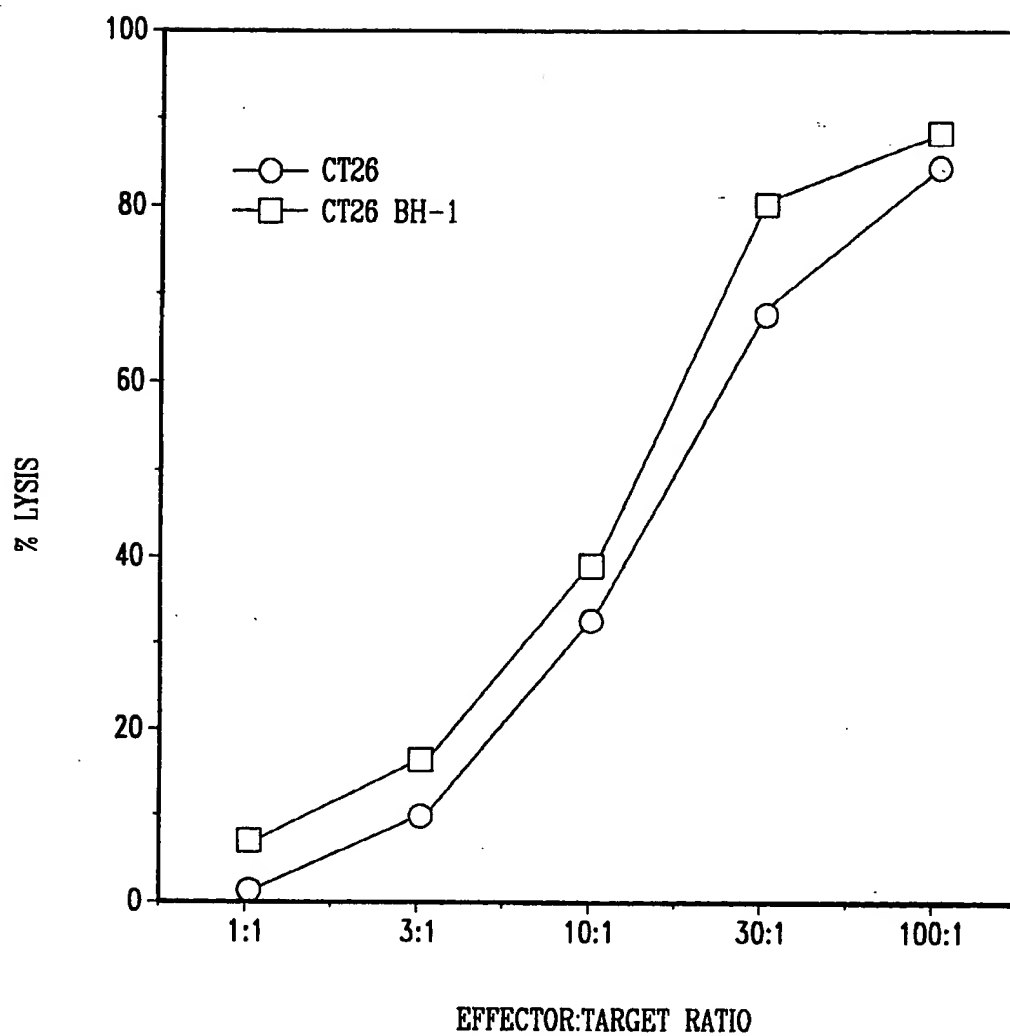
FIG. 25

*Fig. 26*

*Fig. 27*

*Fig. 29**Fig. 30*

*Fig. 31*

*Fig. 32*

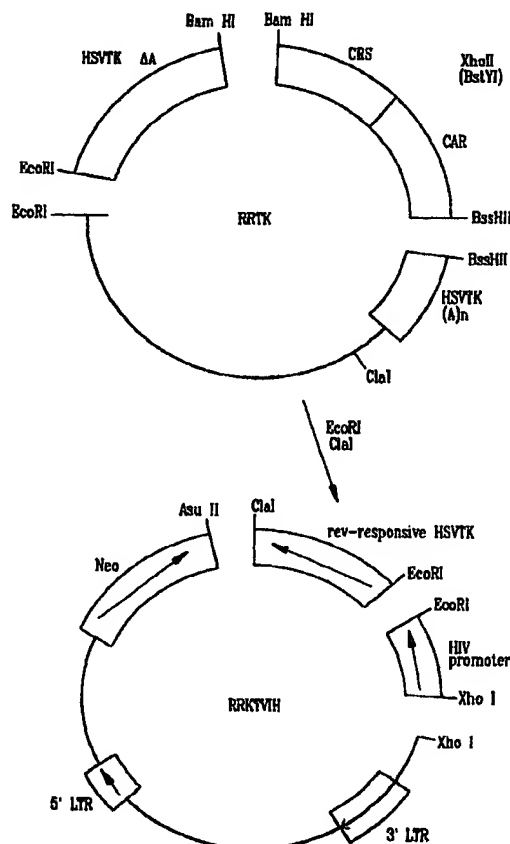


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(54) Title: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR UTILIZING CONDITIONALLY LETHAL GENES**(57) Abstract**

The present invention provides recombinant viral vectors carrying a vector construct which directs the expression of a gene product (e.g., HSVTK) that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a toxic product. Also provided are methods of destroying or inhibiting pathogenic agents in a warm blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to the animal a viral vector such as that described above, in order to inhibit or destroy the pathogenic agent.



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DescriptionCOMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR UTILIZING
CONDITIONALLY LETHAL GENES

5

Technical Field

The present invention relates generally to viral vectors, and more specifically, to recombinant viral vectors which are capable of delivering vector constructs to susceptible target cells. These vector constructs are typically designed to deliver a gene product which is capable of activating a compound with little or no activity into an active product.

Background of the Invention

Although many bacterial diseases are, in general, easily treated with antibiotics, very few effective treatments exist for many viral, cancerous, and other diseases, including genetic diseases. For example, cancer now accounts for one-fifth of the total mortality in the United States, and is the second leading cause of death. Briefly, cancer is typically characterized by the uncontrolled division of a population of cells. This uncontrolled division typically leads to the formation of a tumor, which may subsequently metastasize to other sites.

Cancer, in general, represents a class of diseases which are very difficult to treat. For example, although primary solid tumors can generally be treated by surgical resection, a substantial number of patients that have solid tumors also possess micrometastases beyond the primary tumor site. If treated with surgery alone, many of these patients will experience recurrence of the cancer. Therefore, in addition to surgery many cancers are now also treated with cytotoxic chemotherapeutic drugs (e.g., vincristine, vinblastine, cisplatin, methotrexate, 5-FU, etc.) and/or radiation therapy. One difficulty with this approach however, is that radiotherapeutic and chemotherapeutic agents are toxic to normal tissues, and often create life-threatening side effects. In addition, these approaches often have extremely high failure/remission rates (up to 90% depending upon the type of cancer).

Various other therapies have thus been attempted, in an effort to bolster or augment an individual's own immune system to eliminate cancer cells. Several such therapies have utilized bacterial or viral components as adjuvants, in order to stimulate the immune system to destroy the tumor cells. Examples of such components include BCG, endotoxin, mixed bacterial vaccines, interferons (α , β , and γ), interferon inducers (e.g., *Brucella abortus*, and various viruses), and thymic factors (e.g., thymosin fraction 5, and

thymosin alpha-1) (*see generally* "Principles of Cancer Biotherapy," Oldham (ed.), Raven Press, New York, 1987). Such agents have generally been useful as adjuvants and as nonspecific stimulants in animal tumor models, but have not yet proved to be generally effective in humans.

5 Lymphokines have also been utilized in the treatment of cancer. Briefly, lymphokines are secreted by a variety of cells, and generally have an effect on specific cells in the generation of an immune response. Examples of lymphokines include Interleukins (IL)-1, -2, -3, and -4, as well as colony stimulating factors such as G-CSF, GM-CSF, and M-CSF. Recently, one group has utilized IL-2 to stimulate peripheral blood cells in order to
10 expand and produce large quantities of cells which are cytotoxic to tumor cells (Rosenberg et al., *N. Engl. J. Med.* 313:1485-1492, 1985).

Others have suggested the use of antibody-mediated anti-cancer therapies. Briefly, antibodies may be developed which recognize certain cell surface antigens that are either unique, or more prevalent on cancer cells compared to normal cells. These antibodies,
15 or "magic bullets," may be utilized either alone or conjugated with a toxin in order to specifically target and kill tumor cells (Dillman, "Antibody Therapy," *Principles of Cancer Biotherapy*, Oldham (ed.), Raven Press, Ltd., New York, 1987). For example, Ball et al. (*Blood* 62:1203-1210, 1983) treated several patients with acute myelogenous leukemia with one or more of several monoclonal antibodies specific for the leukemia, resulting in a marked
20 decrease in circulating leukemia cells during treatment. Similarly, others have utilized toxin-conjugated antibodies therapeutically to treat a variety of tumors, including, for example, melanomas, colorectal carcinomas, prostate carcinomas, breast carcinomas, and lung carcinomas (*see* Dillman, *supra*). One difficulty however, is that most monoclonal antibodies are of murine origin, and thus hypersensitivity against the murine antibody may
25 limit its efficacy, particularly after repeated therapies. Common side effects include fever, sweats and chills, skin rashes, arthritis, and nerve palsies.

Therefore cancer has, as a general rule, been very difficult to treat utilizing either conventional or experimental pharmaceutical compositions.

Likewise, viral diseases have been very difficult to treat with conventional
30 pharmaceutical compositions. In general, such pharmaceuticals have lacked specificity, exhibit a high overall toxicity, and have generally been found to be therapeutically ineffective.

Other techniques which have been developed for treating viral diseases involve the elicitation of an immune response to a pathogenic agent (*i.e.*, the virus) through
35 the administration of a noninfectious form of the virus (such as a killed virus), thereby providing antigens which act as an immunostimulant. Such an approach has proved useful for certain viruses (*e.g.*, polio) but not for other viruses (*e.g.*, HIV).

A more recent approach for treating viral diseases, such as acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and related disorders, involves blocking receptors on cells susceptible to infection by HIV from receiving or forming a complex with viral envelope proteins. For example, Lifson et al. (*Science* 232:1123-1127, 1986) demonstrated that antibodies to CD4 (T4) receptors inhibited cell fusion (syncytia) between infected and noninfected CD4 presenting cells *in vitro*. A similar CD4 blocking effect using monoclonal antibodies has been suggested by McDougal et al. (*Science* 231:382-385, 1986). Alternatively, Pert et al. (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 83:9254-9258, 1986) reported the use of synthetic peptides to bind T4 receptors and block HIV infection of human T-cells, and Lifson et al. (*J. Exp. Med.* 164:2101, 1986) reported blocking both syncytia and virus/T4 cell fusion by using a lectin which interacts with a viral envelope glycoprotein, thereby blocking it from being received by CD4 receptors.

An alternative technique for inhibiting a pathogenic agent, such as a virus (which transcribes RNA), is to provide antisense RNA which complements at least a portion of the transcribed RNA, thereby inhibiting translation (To et al., *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 6:758, 1986).

A major shortcoming, however, of the techniques described above is that they do not readily lend themselves to control the time, location or extent to which a drug, antigen, blocking agent or antisense RNA is utilized. In particular, since the above techniques require exogenous application of the treatment agent (*i.e.*, exogenous to the sample in an *in vitro* situation), they are not directly responsive to the presence of the pathogenic agent. For example, it may be desirable to have an immunostimulant expressed in increased amounts immediately following infection by the pathogenic agent. In addition, in the case of antisense RNA, large amounts would be required for useful therapy in an animal, which under current techniques would be administered without regard to the location at which it is actually needed, that is, in cells infected with the pathogenic agent.

As an alternative to exogenous application, techniques have been suggested for producing treatment agents endogenously. More specifically, proteins expressed from viral vectors based on DNA viruses, such as adenovirus, simian virus 40, bovine papilloma, and vaccinia viruses, have been investigated. By way of example, Panicali et al. (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 80:5364, 1983) introduced influenza virus hemagglutinin and hepatitis B surface antigens into the vaccinia genome and infected animals with the virus particles produced from such recombinant genes. Following infection, the animals acquired immunity to both the vaccinia virus and the hepatitis B antigen.

A number of difficulties however have been experienced to date with viral vectors based upon DNA viruses. These difficulties include: (a) the production of other viral proteins which may lead to pathogenesis or the suppression of the desired protein; (b) the

capacity of the vector to uncontrollably replicate in the host, and the pathogenic effect of such uncontrolled replication; (c) the presence of wild-type virus which may lead to viremia; and (d) the transitory nature of expression in these systems. These difficulties have virtually precluded the use of viral vectors based on DNA viruses in the treatment of viral, cancerous, and other nonbacterial diseases, including genetic diseases.

Due to the nontransitory nature of their expression in infected target cells, retroviruses have been suggested as a useful vehicle for the treatment of genetic diseases (for example, see F. Ledley, *The Journal of Pediatrics* 110:1, 1987). However, in view of a number of problems, the use of retroviruses in the treatment of genetic diseases has not yet been widely accepted. Such problems relate to: (a) the apparent need to infect a large number of cells in inaccessible tissues (*e.g.*, brain); (b) the need to cause these vectors to express in a very controlled and permanent fashion; (c) the lack of cloned genes; (d) the irreversible damage to tissue and organs due to metabolic abnormalities; and (e) the availability of other partially effective therapies in certain instances.

The present invention provides novel compositions and methods for treating a variety of diseases (*e.g.*, viral diseases, cancer, genetic diseases and others), and further provides other, related advantages.

Summary of the Invention

Briefly stated, the present invention provides recombinant viral vectors and methods of using such vectors for the treatment of a wide variety of pathogenic agents. Within one aspect of the invention, recombinant viral vectors are provided carrying a vector construct which directs the expression of a gene product capable of activating an otherwise inactive precursor into an active inhibitor of a pathogenic agent. Within one embodiment of the invention, the pathogenic agent is a virus-infected cell. Within another embodiment, the gene product is Herpes Simplex Virus Thymidine Kinase or Varicella Zoster Virus Thymidine Kinase. Within yet another embodiment, the inactive precursor is AZT.

Within another aspect of the present invention, recombinant viral vectors are provided carrying a vector construct which directs the expression of a gene product that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a toxic product. Within other aspects, recombinant viral vectors are provided carrying a vector construct which directs the expression of a gene product that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a toxic product in the presence of a pathogenic agent, thereby affecting localized therapy to the pathogenic agent. Within one embodiment, the gene product is Herpes Simplex Virus Thymidine Kinase, or Varicella Zoster Virus Thymidine Kinase. Within other embodiments, the gene product is selected from the group consisting of *E. coli* guanine phosphoribosyl transferase, *E. coli* Deo D, *E. coli* lacZ, cytochrome P450 2B1 gene, alkaline phosphatase,

fungal cytosine deaminase, carboxypeptidase G2, and Penicillin-V amidase. Within yet other embodiments, the pathogenic agent is a virus-infected cell, a cell infected with bacteria, a tumor cell, or a cell infected with a parasite.

Within other aspects of the invention, recombinant viral vectors are provided which direct the expression of a protein that is toxic upon processing or modification by a protein derived from a pathogenic agent. Within one embodiment, the protein which is toxic upon processing or modification is proricin.

Within yet another aspect of the invention, recombinant viral vectors are provided carrying a vector construct comprising a cytotoxic gene under the transcriptional control of an event-specific promoter, such that upon activation of the event-specific promoter the cytotoxic gene is expressed. Within various embodiments, the event-specific promoter is a cellular thymidine kinase promoter, or a thymidylate synthase promoter. Within another embodiment, the event-specific promoter is activated by a hormone. Within yet other embodiments, the cytotoxic gene is selected from the group consisting of ricin, abrin, diphtheria toxin, cholera toxin, gelonin, pokeweed, antiviral protein, tritin, Shigella toxin, and Pseudomonas exotoxin A.

Within another aspect of the present invention, recombinant viral vectors are provided comprising a cytotoxic gene under the transcriptional control of a tissue-specific promoter, such that upon activation of the tissue-specific promoter the cytotoxic gene is expressed. Within various embodiments, the tissue-specific promoter is the PEPCK promoter, HER2/neu promoter, casein promoter, IgG promoter, Chorionic Embryonic Antigen promoter, elastase promoter, ERB B2 promoter, porphobilinogen deaminase promoter, insulin promoter, growth hormone factor promoter, tyrosine hydroxylase promoter, albumin promoter, alphafetoprotein promoter, acetyl-choline receptor promoter, alcohol dehydrogenase promoter, α or β globin promoter, T-cell receptor promoter, the osteocalcin promoter the IL-2 promoter, IL-2 receptor promoter, whey (wap) promoter, and the MHC Class II promoter.

Within yet another aspect of the present invention, viral vectors are provided carrying a vector construct comprising a cytotoxic gene under the transcriptional control of both an event-specific promoter and a tissue-specific promoter, such that the cytotoxic gene is maximally expressed only upon activation of both the event-specific promoter and the tissue-specific promoter. Representative event-specific and tissue-specific promoters have been discussed above. Within one preferred embodiment, the event-specific promoter is thymidine kinase, and the tissue-specific promoter is selected from the group consisting of the casein promoter and the HER2/neu promoter.

Within other aspects of the invention, viral vectors similar to those described above are provided, except that, in place of (or in addition to) the vector construct which

directs the expression of acytotoxic gene, the viral vector carries a vector construct which directs the expression of a gene product that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a toxic product.

Within other aspects of the present invention, the vector constructs described
5 above may also direct the expression of additional non-vector derived genes. Within one embodiment the non-vector derived gene encodes a protein, such as an immune accessory molecule. Representative examples of immune accessory molecules include IL-1, IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, IL-9, IL-10, IL-11, IL-12, B7, B7-2, GM-CSF, CD3, ICAM-1, β -microglobulin, LFA-3, HLA Class I, and HLA Class II molecules. Within one preferred
10 embodiment, the protein is gamma-interferon.

Within other aspects of the present invention, methods are provided for inhibiting or destroying pathogenic agents in a warm-blooded animal, comprising administering to a warm-blooded animal a recombinant viral vector as described above, such that the pathogenic agent is inhibited or destroyed. As utilized herein, it should be
15 understood that the term "destroyed" refers to the destruction of cells which are responsible for a disease state, which destruction may result in only partial destruction of the disease (e.g., tumors may be only partially destroyed). Within various embodiments, the recombinant viral vector is administered *in vivo*, or alternatively, *ex vivo*. Within yet other embodiments, the pathogenic agent is a virus-infected cell, a cell infected with bacteria, or a
20 tumor cell.

Within other aspects of the present invention, producer cells are provided which generate a recombinant viral vector as described above. Within another aspect, methods are provided for destroying pathogenic agents in a warm blooded animal, comprising administering to the animal such producer cells, in order to destroy the
25 pathogenic agent.

Within another aspect of the present invention, methods are provided for destroying a pathogenic agent in a warm blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to the warm blooded animal nucleic acids which encode a gene product that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a toxic product, such that the
30 pathogenic agent is destroyed.

Within yet another aspect of the invention, pharmaceutical compositions are provided, comprising a recombinant viral vector as described above, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

These and other aspects of the present invention will become evident upon
35 reference to the following detailed description and attached drawings. In addition, a number of patents, patent applications, and other publications are disclosed below which describe in

more detail certain procedures or compositions (e.g., plasmids, etc.), and are therefore incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Brief Description of the Drawings

- 5 Figure 1 is a schematic illustration of p31N2R5(+).
Figure 2 is a schematic illustration of pN2R3(-).
Figure 3 is a schematic illustration of p31N25Δ(+).
Figure 4 is a schematic illustration of pN2R3(+).
Figure 5 is a schematic illustration of pN2R5(-).
10 Figure 6 is a schematic illustration of p31N25Δ(+).
Figure 7 is a schematic illustration of pTKΔA.
Figure 8 is a schematic illustration of pPrTKΔA.
Figure 9 is a schematic illustration of pTK-1 and pTK-3.
Figure 10 is a schematic illustration of pTK2 and pTK-2(ClaI).
15 Figure 11 is a schematic illustration of pKTVIHAX.
Figure 12 is a schematic illustration of pKTVIH-5 and pKTVIH5 Neo.
Figure 13 is a schematic illustration of the construction of pMHM-1 LTR and
pMHMB.
Figure 14 is a schematic illustration of pMHMTKNeo.
20 Figure 15 is a schematic illustration of pSTK(-).
Figure 16 is a schematic illustration of pCRS/CAR(-).
Figure 17 is a schematic illustration of pRRKTVIH.
Figure 18 is a schematic illustration of tathis and anti-tat.
Figure 19 is a bar graph which illustrates the effect of ACV toxicity in cells
25 containing conditionally lethal vectors.
Figure 20 is a bar graph which illustrates the effect of ddC on HIV infection.
Figure 21 is a bar graph which illustrates the effect of AZT on HIV infection.
Figure 22 is a bar graph which illustrates the effect of Ganciclovir on CT26,
CT26 βgal and CT26TK Neo cells.
30 Figure 23 is a graph which illustrates the effect of tumor volume over time in
a Ganciclovir dose study of mice injected with CT26TK Neo.
Figure 24 is a series of four photographs of mice, illustrating the effect of
different dose regimens of Ganciclovir on intraperitoneal tumor growth.
Figure 25 is a series of four photographs of mice, illustrating the effect of
35 different dose regimens of Ganciclovir on subcutaneous tumor growth.
Figure 26 is a graph illustrating the effect of Ganciclovir in CT26 versus
CT26TK Neo cells.

Figure 27 is a graph illustrating the effect of Ganciclovir on *in vivo* transduced CT26 cells by injection of TK-3 virus containing the HSVTK gene.

Figure 28 is a schematic illustration of pKT1-TK.

Figure 29 is a schematic illustration of pKT1/Hbe/TK.

5 Figure 30 is a schematic illustration of pm χ TK and ph χ TK.

Figure 31 is a graph which demonstrates the negligible level of activity against CT26 tumor cells in CT26 tumor bearing mice.

Figure 32 is a graph which demonstrates the lytic activity in mice infected with CT26 TK+ cells and treated with ganciclovir.

10

Detailed Description of the Invention

Prior to setting forth the invention, it may be helpful to an understanding thereof to first set forth definitions of certain terms that will be used hereinafter.

15 "Vector construct" refers to an assembly which is capable of directing the expression of the sequence(s) or gene(s) of interest. The vector construct must include transcriptional promoter/enhancer or locus defining element(s), or other elements which control gene expression by other means such as alternate splicing, nuclear RNA export, post-translational modification of messenger, or post-transcriptional modification of protein. In
20 addition, the vector construct must include a sequence which, when transcribed, is operably linked to the sequence(s) or gene(s) of interest and acts as a translation initiation sequence. Optionally, the vector construct may also include a signal which directs polyadenylation, a selectable marker such as Neo, TK, hygromycin, phleomycin, histidinol, or DHFR, as well as one or more restriction sites and a translation termination sequence. In addition, if the vector
25 construct is placed into a retrovirus, the vector construct must include a packaging signal, long terminal repeats (LTRs), and positive and negative strand primer binding sites appropriate to the retrovirus used (if these are not already present).

"Pathogenic agent" refers to a cell which is responsible for a disease state. Representative examples of pathogenic agents include tumor cells, autoreactive immune
30 cells, hormone secreting cells, cells which lack a function that they would normally have, cells that have an additional inappropriate gene expression which does not normally occur in that cell type, and cells infected with bacteria, viruses, or other intracellular parasites. In addition, as used herein "pathogenic agent" may also refer to a cell which over-expresses or inappropriately expresses a retroviral vector (e.g., in the wrong cell type), or which has
35 become tumorigenic due to inappropriate insertion into a host cell's genome.

"Tissue-specific promoter" refers to transcriptional promoter/enhancer or locus defining elements, or other elements which control gene expression as discussed above,

which are preferentially active in a limited number of tissue types. Representative examples of such tissue-specific promoters include the PEPCK promoter, HER2/neu promoter, casein promoter, IgG promoter, Chorionic Embryonic Antigen promoter, elastase promoter, ERB B2 promoter, mucin promoter, PEM promoter, porphobilinogen deaminase promoter, insulin
5 promoter, growth hormone factor promoter, tyrosine hydroxylase promoter, albumin promoter, alphafetoprotein promoter, acetyl-choline receptor promoter, alcohol dehydrogenase promoter, α or β globin promoters, T-cell receptor promoter, or the osteocalcin promoter.

"Event-specific promoter" refers to transcriptional promoter/enhancer or locus
10 defining elements, or other elements which control gene expression as discussed above, whose transcriptional activity is altered upon response to cellular stimuli. Representative examples of such event-specific promoters include thymidine kinase or thymidilate synthase promoters, α or β interferon promoters and promoters that respond to the presence of hormones (either natural, synthetic or from other non-host organisms, *e.g.*, insect hormones).

15 As noted above, the present invention provides recombinant viral vectors and methods of using such vectors for the treatment of a wide variety of pathogenic agents. Within one aspect of the invention, recombinant viral vectors are provided carrying a vector construct which directs the expression of a gene product capable of activating an otherwise inactive precursor into an active inhibitor of a pathogenic agent. As will be evident to one of
20 skill in the art given the disclosure provided herein, a wide variety of inactive precursors may be converted into active inhibitors of a pathogenic agent. For example, antiviral nucleoside analogues such as AZT or ddC are metabolized by cellular mechanisms to the nucleotide triphosphate form in order to specifically inhibit retroviral reverse transcriptase, and thus viral replication (Furman et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 83:8333-8337, 1986).
25 Recombinant viral vectors which direct the expression of a gene product (*e.g.*, a protein) such as Herpes Simplex Virus Thymidine Kinase (HSVTK) or Varicella Zoster Virus Thymidine Kinase (VZVTK) which assists in metabolizing antiviral nucleoside analogues to their active form are therefore useful in activating nucleoside analogue precursors (*e.g.*, AZT or ddC) into their active form.

30 Within one embodiment of the invention, the HSVTK gene may be expressed under the control of a constitutive macrophage or T-cell-specific promoter, and introduced into macrophage or T-cells. Constitutive expression of HSVTK results in more effective metabolism of nucleotide analogues such as AZT or ddC to their biologically active nucleotide triphosphate form, and thereby provides greater efficacy, delivery of lower doses,
35 less generalized toxicity, and higher potency against productive infection. Additional nucleoside analogues whose nucleotide triphosphate forms show selectivity for retroviral reverse transcriptase but, as a result of the substrate specificity of cellular nucleoside and

nucleotide kinases are not phosphorylated, may also be utilized within the context of the present invention. A detailed description of several representative viral vectors is set forth in more detail below in Example 1.

Within a related aspect of the present invention, recombinant viral vectors are provided carrying a vector construct which directs the expression of a gene product that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a toxic product. Briefly, a wide variety of gene products which either directly or indirectly activate a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a toxic product may be utilized within the context of the present invention. Representative examples of such gene products include HSVTK and VZVTK which selectively monophosphorylate certain purine arabinosides and substituted pyrimidine compounds, converting them to cytotoxic or cytostatic metabolites. More specifically, exposure of the drugs ganciclovir, acyclovir, or any of their analogues (*e.g.*, FIAU, FIAC, DHPG) to HSVTK, phosphorylates the drug into its corresponding active nucleotide triphosphate form.

Representative examples of other gene products which may be utilized within the context of the present invention include: *E. coli* quanine phosphoribosyl transferase which converts thioxanthine into toxic thioxanthine monophosphate (Besnard et al., *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 7:4139-4141, 1987); alkaline phosphatase, which will convert inactive phosphorylated compounds such as mitomycin phosphate and doxorubicin-phosphate to toxic dephosphorylated compounds; fungal (*e.g.*, *Fusarium oxysporum*) or bacterial cytosine deaminase which will convert 5-fluorocytosine to the toxic compound 5-fluorouracil (Mullen, *PNAS* 89:33, 1992); *E. coli* DeoD which efficiently catalyzes the conversion of the nontoxic prodrug 6-methylpurine-2'-deoxyribonucleoside (MeP-dr) to the toxic purine analog 6-methylpurine (Moolten, *Cancer Gene Therapy* 1(4):279-287, 1994); cytochrome P450 2B1 converts cyclophosphamide (CPA) to a cytotoxic metabolite (Moolten, *Cancer Gene Therapy* 1(4):279-287, 1994); beta-galactosidase (*lacZ*) gene which converts the galactoside of araC and deoxycytosine to a cytotoxic agent (Moolten, *Cancer Gene Therapy* 1(4):279-287, 1994); carboxypeptidase G2 which will cleave the glutamic acid from para-N-bis (2-chloroethyl) aminobenzoyl glutamic acid, thereby creating a toxic benzoic acid mustard; and Penicillin-V amidase, which will convert phenoxyacetabide derivatives of doxorubicin and melphalan to toxic compounds (see generally, Vrudhula et al., *J. of Med. Chem.* 36(7):919-923, 1993; Kern et al., *Canc. Immun. Immunother.* 31(4):202-206, 1990).

Within a related aspect of the present invention, recombinant viral vectors are provided carrying a vector construct which directs the expression of a gene product that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a toxic product in the presence of a pathogenic agent, thereby affecting localized therapy to the pathogenic agent. In this case, expression of the gene product from the recombinant viral vector is limited to situations

wherein an entity associated with the pathogenic agent, such as an intracellular signal identifying the pathogenic state, is present, thereby avoiding destruction of nonpathogenic cells. This cell-type specificity may also be conferred at the level of infection, by targeting recombinant virus carrying the vector to cells having or being susceptible to the pathogenic condition.

Within one aspect of this method, recombinant viral vectors are provided carrying a vector construct comprising a cytotoxic gene under the transcriptional control of an event-specific promoter, such that upon activation of the event-specific promoter the cytotoxic gene is expressed. Numerous event-specific promoters may be utilized within the context of the present invention, including for example, promoters which are activated by cellular proliferation (or are otherwise cell-cycle dependent) such as the thymidine kinase or thymidilate synthase promoters (Merrill, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86:4987-91, 1989; Deng et al., *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 9:4079-82, 1989); promoters such as the α or β interferon promoters which are activated when a cell is infected by a virus (Fan and Maniatis, *EMBO J.* 8(1):101-110, 1989; Goodbourn et al. *Cell* 45:601-610, 1986); and promoters which are activated by the presence of hormones (e.g., estrogen response promoters; see Toohey et al., *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 6:4526-38, 1986).

Within a preferred embodiment, a recombinant viral vector (preferably, but not necessarily, a recombinant MLV retrovirus) carries a vector construct containing a cytotoxic gene expressed from an event-specific promoter, such as a cell cycle-dependent promoter (e.g., human cellular thymidine kinase or transferrin receptor promoters), which will be transcriptionally active primarily in rapidly proliferating cells, such as tumors. In this manner, rapidly replicating cells which contain factors capable of activating transcription from these promoters are preferentially destroyed by the cytotoxic agent produced by the vector construct.

Within another aspect of this method, recombinant viral vectors are provided comprising a cytotoxic gene under the transcriptional control of a tissue-specific promoter, such that upon activation of the tissue-specific promoter the cytotoxic gene is expressed. A wide variety of tissue-specific promoters may be utilized within the context of the present invention. Representative examples of such promoters include: liver-specific promoters such as Phospho-Enol-Pyruvate Carboxy-Kinase ("PEPCK") (Hatzogiou et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 263:17798-808, 1988; Benvenisty et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86:1118-22, 1989; Vaultont et al., *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 9:4409-15, 1989); B cell specific promoters such as the IgG promoter; breast carcinoma or hepatocellular carcinoma specific promoters such as Carcinoembryonic Antigen promoter (CEA) (Schrewe et al., *Mol. and Cell. Biol.* 10:2738, 1990); pancreatic acinar cell specific promoters such as the elastase promoter (Swift et al., *Genes Develop.* 3:687-96, 1989); breast epithelial specific promoters such as the casein promoter (Doppler

et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86:104-08, 1989); erythroid specific-transcription promoters which are active in erythroid cells, such as the porphobilinogen deaminase promoter (Mignotte et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86:6458-52, 1990); α or β globin specific promoters (van Assendelft et al., *Cell* 56:969-77, 1989, Forrester et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86:5439-43, 1989); promoters which regulate skeletal muscle such as the myo-D binding site (Burden, *Nature* 341:716, 1989; Weintraub et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86:5434-38, 1989); promoters which are specific for β cells of the pancreas, such as the insulin promoter (Ohlsson et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85:4228-31, 1988; Karlsson et al., *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 9:823-27, 1989); promoters which are specific for the pituitary gland, such as the growth hormone factor promoter (Ingraham et al., *Cell* 55:519-29, 1988; Bodner et al., *Cell* 55:505-18, 1988); promoters which are specific for melanosomes, such as the tyrosine hydroxylase promoter; liver-specific promoters such as the albumin promoter and the alphafetoprotein promoter (Feuerman et al., *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 9:4204-12, 1989; Camper and Tilghman, *Genes Develop.* 3:537-46, 1989); breast carcinoma specific promoters such as the HER2/neu promoter (Tal et al., *Mol. and Cell. Biol.* 7:2597, 1987); liver-specific promoters such as the alcohol dehydrogenase promoter (Felder, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86:5903-07, 1989); T-cell specific promoters such as the T-cell receptor promoter (Anderson et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85:3551-54, 1988; Winoto and Baltimore, *EMBO J.* 8:729-33, 1989); bone-specific promoters such as the osteocalcin promoter (Markose et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 87:1701-1705, 1990; McDonnell et al., *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 9:3517-23, 1989; Kerner et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86:4455-59, 1989) the IL-2 promoter, IL-2 receptor promoter, the whey (wap) promoter, and the MHC Class II promoter.

A variety of other elements which control gene expression may also be utilized within the context of the present invention, including for example locus-defining elements such as the β -globin gene and the T cell marker CD2. In addition, elements which control expression at the level of splicing and nuclear export are the β -globin intron sequences, the rev and rre elements in HIV-1, and the CTE element in the D-type masonpfizer monkey retrovirus.

Within preferred embodiments of the invention, the gene producing the cytotoxic agent is under control of a tissue-specific promoter, where the tissue specificity corresponds to the tissue of tumor origin. Since the viral vector preferentially integrates into the genome of replicating cells (for example, normal liver cells are not replicating, while those of a hepatocarcinoma are), these two levels of specificity (viral integration/replication and tissue-specific transcriptional regulation) lead to preferential killing of tumor cells.

Within yet another related aspect of the present invention, viral vectors are provided carrying a vector construct comprising a cytotoxic gene under the transcriptional control of both an event-specific promoter and a tissue-specific promoter, such that the

cytotoxic gene is maximally expressed only upon activation of both the event-specific promoter and the tissue-specific promoter. In particular, by utilizing such vectors, the cytotoxic gene product is expressed only in cell types satisfying both criteria (e.g., in the example above, combined promoter elements are functional only in rapidly dividing liver cells). Within preferred embodiments of the invention, the number of transcriptional promoter elements may also be increased, in order to improve the stringency of cell-type specificity.

Transcriptional promoter/enhancer elements as discussed above need not necessarily be present as an internal promoter (lying between the viral LTRs for retroviruses), but may be added to or replace the transcriptional control elements in the viral LTRs which are themselves transcriptional promoters, such that condition-specific (i.e., event or tissue specific) transcriptional expression will occur directly from the modified viral LTR. In this case, either the condition for maximal expression will need to be mimicked in retroviral packaging cell lines (e.g., by altering growth conditions, supplying necessary transregulators of expression or using the appropriate cell line as a parent for a packaging line), or the LTR modification is limited to the 3' LTR U3 region, to obtain maximal recombinant viral titres. In the latter case, after one round of infection/integration, the 3' LTR U3 is now also the 5' LTR U3, giving the desired tissue-specific expression. Similarly, for other viral vectors, the promoters may be exogenous, or hybrids with normal viral promoter elements.

A wide variety of cytotoxic genes may be utilized within the context of the present invention. Representative examples include proteins such as ricin (Lamb et al., *Eur. J. Biochem.* 148:265-270, 1985), abrin (Wood et al., *Eur. J. Biochem.* 198:723-732, 1991; Evensen, et al., *J. of Biol. Chem.* 266:6848-6852, 1991; Collins et al., *J. of Biol. Chem.* 265:8665-8669, 1990; Chen et al., *Fed. of Eur. Biochem Soc.* 309:115-118, 1992), diphtheria toxin (Tweten et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 260:10392-10394, 1985), cholera toxin (Mekalanos et al., *Nature* 306:551-557, 1983; Sanchez & Holmgren, *PNAS* 86:481-485, 1989), gelonin (Stirpe et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 255:6947-6953, 1980), pokeweed (Irvin, *Pharmac. Ther.* 21:371-387, 1983), antiviral protein (Barbieri et al., *Biochem. J.* 203:55-59, 1982; Irvin et al., *Arch. Biochem. & Biophys.* 200:418-425, 1980; Irvin, *Arch. Biochem. & Biophys.* 169:522-528, 1975), tritin, Shigella toxin (Calderwood et al., *PNAS* 84:4364-4368, 1987; Jackson et al., *Microb. Path.* 2:147-153, 1987), and Pseudomonas exotoxin A (Carroll and Collier, *J. Biol. Chem.* 262:8707-8711, 1987), herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase (HSVTK) (Field et al., *J. Gen. Virol.* 49:115-124, 1980), and *E. coli* guanine phosphoribosyl transferase.

Within other embodiments of the invention, the cytotoxic gene may be an antisense sequence which inhibits, for example, tumor cell growth, viral replication, or a genetic disease by preventing the cellular synthesis of critical proteins needed for cell growth. Examples of such antisense sequences include antisense thymidine kinase, antisense

dihydrofolate reductase (Maher and Dolnick, *Arch. Biochem. & Biophys.* 253:214-220, 1987; Bzik et al., *PNAS* 84:8360-8364, 1987), antisense HER2 (Coussens et al., *Science* 230:1132-1139, 1985), antisense ABL (Fainstein, et al., *Oncogene* 4:1477-1481, 1989), antisense Myc (Stanton et al., *Nature* 310:423-425, 1984) and antisense *ras*, as well as antisense sequences
5 which block any of the enzymes in the nucleotide biosynthetic pathway. In addition, cytotoxic genes may encode tumor proliferation inhibitors such as p53, retinoblastoma (Rb), and MCC and APC for colorectal carcinoma.

Within a further embodiment of the invention antisense RNA may be utilized as a cytotoxic gene in order to induce a potent Class I restricted response. Briefly, in addition
10 to binding RNA and thereby preventing translation of a specific mRNA, high levels of specific antisense sequences may be utilized to induce the increased expression of interferons (including gamma-interferon), due to the formation of large quantities of double-stranded RNA. The increased expression of gamma interferon, in turn, boosts the expression of MHC Class I antigens. Preferred antisense sequences for use in this regard include actin RNA,
15 myosin RNA, and histone RNA. Antisense RNA which forms a mismatch with actin RNA is particularly preferred.

Within other aspects of the invention, recombinant viral vectors are provided carrying a vector construct which directs the expression of a gene product that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a toxic product. Within preferred embodiments
20 of the invention, the recombinant viral vectors direct the expression of a gene product that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a toxic product in the presence of a pathogenic agent, thereby affecting localized therapy to the pathogenic agent.

For example, within one embodiment of the invention, the recombinant viral vector carries a vector construct which directs the expression of the herpes simplex virus
25 thymidine kinase ("HSVTK") gene downstream, and under the transcriptional control of an HIV promoter (which is known to be transcriptionally silent except when activated by HIV tat protein). Briefly, expression of the tat gene product in human cells infected with HIV and carrying the vector construct causes increased production of HSVTK. The cells (either *in vitro* or *in vivo*) are then exposed to a drug such as ganciclovir, acyclovir or its analogues
30 (FIAU, FIAC, DHPG). As noted above, these drugs are known to be phosphorylated by HSVTK (but not by cellular thymidine kinase) to their corresponding active nucleotide triphosphate forms. Acyclovir and FIAU triphosphates inhibit cellular polymerases in general, leading to the specific destruction of cells expressing HSVTK in transgenic mice (see Borrelli et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85:7572, 1988). Those cells containing the
35 recombinant vector and expressing HIV tat protein are selectively killed by the presence of a specific dose of these drugs.

Within one embodiment of the invention, expression of the conditionally lethal HSVTK gene may be made even more HIV-specific by including cis-acting elements in the transcript ("CRS/CAR"), which require an additional HIV gene product, rev, for optimal activity (Rosen et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85:2071, 1988). Such a tat- and
5 rev-responsive vector (RRKTVIH) has been constructed (see Figure 17) and amphotrophic virus has been generated. More generally, cis elements present in mRNAs have been shown in some cases to regulate mRNA stability or translatability. Sequences of this type (*i.e.*, post-transcriptional regulation of gene expression) may be used for event- or tissue-specific regulation of vector gene expression. In addition, multimerization of these sequences (*i.e.*,
10 rev-responsive "CRS/CAR" or tat-responsive "TAR" elements for HIV) may be utilized in order to generate even greater specificity.

It should be noted that all these kinds of conditional activation of an inactive precursor into an active product in cells may also be achieved using other viral vectors such as adeno-associated viral vectors, including those with a shorter term effect, *e.g.*, adenovirus
15 vectors and others mentioned below. Such vectors are capable of efficiently entering cells and expressing proteins encoded by the vector over a period of time from a couple of days to a month or so. This period of time should be sufficient to allow killing of cells which are infected by both HIV and the recombinant virus, leading to HIV dependent activation of expression of a gene carried by the recombinant virus. This gene expression would then
20 allow conversion of an inactive precursor into an active (*e.g.*, lethal) product. In addition, physical methods of gene transfer may be utilized if they are sufficiently efficient.

In a manner similar to the preceding embodiment, vector constructs may be generated which carry a gene for phosphorylation, phosphoribosylation, ribosylation, or other metabolism of a purine- or pyrimidine-based drug. Such genes may have no equivalent in
25 mammalian cells, and might come from organisms such as a virus, bacterium, fungus, or protozoan. Representative examples include: *E. coli* guanine phosphoribosyl transferase ("gpt") gene product, which converts thioxanthine into thioxanthine monophosphate (see Besnard et al., *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 7:4139-4141, 1987); alkaline phosphatase, which will convert inactive phosphorylated compounds such as mitomycin phosphate and doxorubicin-
30 phosphate to toxic dephosphorylated compounds; fungal (*e.g.*, *Fusarium oxysporum*) or bacterial cytosine deaminase which will convert 5-fluorocytosine to the toxic compound 5-fluorouracil (Mullen, *PNAS* 89:33, 1992); carboxypeptidase G2 which will cleave the glutamic acid from para-N-bis (2-chloroethyl) aminobenzoyl glutamic acid, thereby creating a toxic benzoic acid mustard; and Penicillin-V amidase, which will convert phenoxyacetabide
35 derivatives of doxorubicin and melphalan to toxic compounds. Conditionally lethal gene products of this type have potential application to many presently known purine- or pyrimidine-based anticancer drugs, which often require intracellular ribosylation or

phosphorylation in order to become effective cytotoxic agents. The conditionally lethal gene product could also metabolize a nontoxic drug, which is not a purine or pyrimidine analogue, to a cytotoxic form (see Searle et al., *Brit. J. Cancer* 53:377-384, 1986).

5 Mammalian viruses in general tend to have "immediate early" genes which are necessary for subsequent transcriptional activation from other viral promoter elements. Gene products of this nature are excellent candidates for intracellular signals (or "identifying agents") of viral infection. Thus, conditionally lethal genes from transcriptional promoter elements responsive to these viral "immediate early" gene products could specifically kill cells infected with any particular virus. Additionally, since the human α and β interferon
10 promoter elements are transcriptionally activated in response to infection by a wide variety of nonrelated viruses, the introduction of vectors expressing a conditionally lethal gene product like HSVTK, for example, from these viral-responsive elements (VRE) could result in the destruction of cells infected with a variety of different viruses.

Within other aspects of the invention, recombinant viral vectors are provided
15 which carry a gene specifying a product which is not in itself toxic, but when processed or modified by a protein, such as a protease specific to a viral or other pathogen, is converted into a toxic form. For example, the recombinant retrovirus could carry a gene encoding a proprotein for ricin A chain, which becomes toxic upon processing by the HIV protease. More specifically, a synthetic inactive proprotein form of the toxic ricin or diphtheria A
20 chains could be cleaved to the active form by arranging for the HIV virally encoded protease to recognize and cleave off an appropriate "pro" element.

Within yet another aspect of the invention, viral vectors are provided which express a "reporting product" on the surface of the target cells in response to the presence of an identifying agent in the cells (such as HIV tat protein). This surface protein can be
25 recognized by a cytotoxic agent, such as antibodies for the reporting protein, or by cytotoxic T-cells. In a similar manner, such a system can be used as a detection system to simply identify those cells having a particular gene which expresses an identifying protein, such as the HIV tat gene.

Within other aspects of the present invention, recombinant viral vectors are
30 provided which direct the expression of a vector construct which encodes a ribozyme which will cleave and inactivate RNA molecules essential for viability of the vector infected cell. By making ribozyme production dependent on an intracellular signal corresponding to the pathogenic state, such as HIV tat, toxicity is specific to the pathogenic state.

35 GENERATION OF RECOMBINANT VIRAL VECTORS

As noted above, the present invention provides compositions and methods comprising recombinant viral vectors. Particularly preferred recombinant viral vectors for

use within the present invention include recombinant retroviral vectors and recombinant adenovirus vectors. The construction of recombinant retroviral vectors is described in greater detail in an application entitled "Recombinant Retroviruses" (U.S.S.N. 07/586,603, filed September 21, 1990, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety). These
5 recombinant retroviral vectors may be used to generate transduction competent retroviral vector particles by introducing them into appropriate packaging cell lines (see U.S.S.N. 07/800,921, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety). Similarly, adenovirus vectors may also be readily prepared and utilized given the disclosure provided herein (see also Berkner, *Biotechniques* 6:616-627, 1988, and Rosenfeld et al., *Science* 252:431-434,
10 1991, WO 93/07283, WO 93/06223, and WO 93/07282, which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety).

Vector constructs of the present invention may also be utilized with other viral vectors, including for example poliovirus (Evans et al., *Nature* 339:385-388, 1989, and Sabin, *J. of Biol. Standardization* 1:115-118, 1973); rhinovirus (Arnold, *J. Cell. Biochem.*
15 L401-405, 1990); pox viruses, such as canary pox virus or vaccinia virus (Fisher-Hoch et al., *PNAS* 86:317-321, 1989; Flexner et al., *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* 569:86-103, 1989; Flexner et al., *Vaccine* 8:17-21, 1990; U.S. Patent Nos. 4,603,112 and 4,769,330; WO 89/01973); SV40 (Mulligan et al., *Nature* 277:108-114, 1979); influenza virus (Luytjes et al., *Cell* 59:1107-1113, 1989; McMichael et al., *The New England Journal of Medicine* 309:13-17,
20 1983; and Yap et al., *Nature* 273:238-239, 1978); parovirus such as adeno-associated virus (Samulski et al., *Journal of Virology* 63:3822-3828, 1989, and Mendelson et al., *Virology* 166:154-165, 1988); herpes (Kit, *Adv. Exp. Med. Biol.* 215:219-236, 1989); SV40; HIV; measles (EP 0 440,219); corona virus and Sindbis virus (Xiong et al., *Science* 234:1188-1191, 1989; U.S. Patent Nos. 5,091,309 and 5,217,879).

25 Within other aspects of the present invention, the vector constructs described above may also direct the expression of additional non-vector derived genes. Within one embodiment, the non-vector derived gene encodes a protein, such as an immune accessory molecule. Representative examples of immune accessory molecules include IL-1, IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7 (U.S. Patent No. 4,965,195), IL-8, IL-9, IL-10, IL-11, IL-12, B7, B7-
30 2, GM-CSF, CD3 (Krissanen et al., *Immunogenetics* 26:258-266, 1987), ICAM-1 (Simmons et al., *Nature* 331:624-627, 1988), β -microglobulin (Parnes et al., *PNAS* 78:2253-2257, 1981), LFA3 (Wallner et al., *J. Exp. Med.* 166(4):923-932, 1987), HLA Class I, and HLA Class II molecules. Within one preferred embodiment, the non-vector derived gene encodes gamma-interferon.

35 Sequences which encode the above-described non-vector derived genes (e.g., immune accessory molecules), as well as the cytotoxic genes discussed above, may be readily obtained from a variety of sources. For example, plasmids which contain sequences

that encode immune accessory molecules may be obtained from a depository such as the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, Rockville, Maryland), or from commercial sources such as British Bio-Technology Limited (Cowley, Oxford England). Representative sources sequences which encode the above-noted anti-tumor agents include BBG 12
5 (containing the GM-CSF gene coding for the mature protein of 127 amino acids), BBG 6 (which contains sequences encoding gamma interferon), ATCC No. 39656 (which contains sequences encoding TNF), ATCC No. 20663 (which contains sequences encoding alpha interferon), ATCC Nos. 31902, 31902 and 39517 (which contains sequences encoding beta interferon), ATCC No 67024 (which contains a sequence which encodes Interleukin-1),
10 ATCC Nos. 39405, 39452, 39516, 39626 and 39673 (which contains sequences encoding Interleukin-2), ATCC Nos. 59399, 59398, and 67326 (which contain sequences encoding Interleukin-3), ATCC No. 57592 (which contains sequences encoding Interleukin-4), ATCC Nos. 59394 and 59395 (which contain sequences encoding Interleukin-5), and ATCC No. 67153 (which contains sequences encoding Interleukin-6). It will be evident to one of skill in
15 the art that one may utilize either the entire sequence of the protein, or an appropriate portion thereof which encodes a protein having biological activity.

Alternatively, known cDNA sequences which encode cytotoxic genes or other non-vector derived genes may be obtained from cells which express or contain such sequences. Briefly, within one embodiment mRNA from a cell which expresses the gene of
20 interest is reverse transcribed with reverse transcriptase using oligo dT or random primers. The single stranded cDNA may then be amplified by PCR (*see* U.S. Patent Nos. 4,683,202, 4,683,195 and 4,800,159. See also PCR Technology: Principles and Applications for DNA Amplification, Erlich (ed.), Stockton Press, 1989 all of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety) utilizing oligonucleotide primers complementary to sequences on
25 either side of desired sequences. In particular, a double stranded DNA is denatured by heating in the presence of heat stable Taq polymerase, sequence specific DNA primers, ATP, CTP, GTP and TTP. Double-stranded DNA is produced when synthesis is complete. This cycle may be repeated many times, resulting in a factorial amplification of the desired DNA.

Sequences which encode the above-described genes may also be synthesized,
30 for example, on an Applied Biosystems Inc. DNA synthesizer (*e.g.*, ABI DNA synthesizer model 392 (Foster City, California)).

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS

Within another aspect of the invention, pharmaceutical compositions are
35 provided, comprising a recombinant viral vector as described above, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent. Such pharmaceutical compositions may be prepared either as a liquid solution, or as a solid form (*e.g.*, lyophilized) which is suspended

in a solution prior to administration. In addition, the composition may be prepared with suitable carriers or diluents for either surface administration, injection, oral, or rectal administration.

Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or diluents are nontoxic to recipients at the dosages and concentrations employed. Representative examples of carriers or diluents for injectable solutions include water, isotonic saline solutions which are preferably buffered at a physiological pH (such as phosphate-buffered saline or Tris-buffered saline), mannitol, dextrose, glycerol, and ethanol, as well as polypeptides or proteins such as human serum albumin. A particularly preferred composition comprises a vector or recombinant virus in 10 mg/ml mannitol, 1 mg/ml HSA, 20 mM Tris, pH 7.2, and 150 mM NaCl. In this case, since the recombinant vector represents approximately 1 mg of material, it may be less than 1% of high molecular weight material, and less than 1/100,000 of the total material (including water). This composition is stable at -70°C for at least six months.

Pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention may also additionally include factors which stimulate cell division, and hence, uptake and incorporation of a recombinant retroviral vector. Representative examples include Melanocyte Stimulating Hormone (MSH), for melanomas or epidermal growth factor for breast or other epithelial carcinomas.

Particularly preferred methods and compositions for preserving recombinant viruses are described in U.S. applications entitled "Methods for Preserving Recombinant Viruses" (U.S. Serial No. 08/135,938, filed October 12, 1993, and U.S. Serial No. _____, filed November 15, 1993, which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety).

25 METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION

Within other aspects of the present invention, methods are provided for inhibiting or destroying pathogenic agents in a warm-blooded animal, comprising administering to a warm-blooded animal a recombinant viral vector as described above, such that the pathogenic agent is inhibited or destroyed. Within various embodiments of the invention, recombinant viral vectors may be administered *in vivo*, or *ex vivo* as described in greater detail below. Alternatively, the cytotoxic genes, gene products, vector constructs or viral vectors of the present invention may also be administered to a patient by a variety of other methods. Representative examples include transfection by various physical methods, such as lipofection (Felgner et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 84:7413-7417, 1989), direct DNA injection (Acsadi et al., *Nature* 352:815-818, 1991); microprojectile bombardment (Williams et al., *PNAS* 88:2726-2730, 1991); liposomes of several types (*see e.g.*, Wang et al., *PNAS* 84:7851-7855, 1987); CaPO₄ (Dubensky et al., *PNAS* 81:7529-7533, 1984); DNA

ligand (Wu et al, *J. of Biol. Chem.* 264:16985-16987, 1989); administration of nucleic acids alone (WO 90/11092); or administration of DNA linked to killed adenovirus (Curiel et al., *Hum. Gene Ther.* 3: 147-154, 1992).

5 Within one embodiment of the invention, a patient suffering from a non-metastatic, but otherwise untreatable tumor such as glioblastoma, astrocytoma, or other brain tumor, may be treated by injecting purified, concentrated HSVTK vector directly into the tumor. The vector is preferentially integrated and expressed in tumor cells since only growing cells are transducible with retroviral vectors. The vector may express HSVTK in an unregulated fashion or, to promote greater tumor specificity, may express HSVTK from a
10 tissue or event specific promoter which is preferentially expressed in the tumor. For instance, a vector which expresses HSVTK from the CEA promoter may be utilized to treat breast or liver carcinomas. Multiple injections (>10) of vector (approximately 1 ml with a titer of 1×10^7 - 1×10^8 cfu) can be delivered over an extended period of time (>3 months) since the purified vector contains non-immunogenic quantities of protein (<1 mg protein per 1×10^7
15 cfu). Thus, injections may continue until a large fraction of the tumor cells have become transduced. Vector may be delivered stereotactically before or after debulking surgery or chemotherapy. After *in vivo* transduction has occurred, the transduced tumor cells may be eliminated by treating the patient with pro-drugs which are activated by HSVTK, such as acyclovir or ganciclovir.

20 Within another aspect of the present invention, methods are provided for destroying pathogenic agents in a warm blooded animal, comprising administering to the animal Vector Producing Cells (also termed "VCLs" or "producer cells"), in order to destroy the pathogenic agent. Within a preferred embodiment, the VCLs may be injected directly into a tumor, thereby allowing for the continual production of retroviral vector *in vivo* and an
25 increase in the efficiency of transduction.

One difficulty with the direct injection of VCLs however, is that in certain instances a very potent immune response may result, thus making such therapy feasible for only a very short term (<2 weeks). Therefore, within preferred embodiments of the invention the immune response against VCLs may be minimized by selecting packaging cell lines
30 made from autologous or HLA-matched human cells. In addition, in order to further limit the immune response against viral structural proteins expressed by the VCLs, the cells may be enclosed in a structure, such as a bead or a bag, which has a semi-permeable membrane, allowing vector particles to diffuse into the tumor, but preventing host immune cells from passing through the membrane and thereby generating an immune response. Methods which
35 decrease the immune response allow additional time for *in vivo* transduction to occur, and thus improves the therapy. In each case, the VCL is preferably destroyed by treatment with acyclovir or ganciclovir after it has accomplished its role in the *in vivo* transduction of cells.

Within another embodiment of the invention, metastatic, but highly localized cancers such as ovarian, neuroblastoma and cervical carcinomas (which are metastatic, but typically remain localized to the peritoneal cavity) may be treated according to the methods of the present invention. Within this embodiment, vector or VCLs may be injected directly
5 into the peritoneal cavity. Within a particularly preferred approach, rapidly growing tumors are preferentially transduced *in vivo* by a HSVTK vector, and may be subsequently destroyed by administering acyclovir or ganciclovir to the patient.

Within yet another embodiment of the invention, viral vectors or VCLs may be injected into the pleural cavity for the treatment of pleural carcinomatosis arising from
10 lung, breast or colon carcinomas, or by intrathecal injection for the treatment of meningeal carcinomatosis.

Within another embodiment of the invention, patients with metastatic, disseminated cancer may also be treated according to the methods of the present invention. For instance, primary pancreatic carcinomas or colorectal carcinomas that have metastasized
15 to, for example, the liver, may be injected directly with viral vector or VCL of the present invention by inserting a syringe, possibly targeted by stereotaxis, through the body wall. Tumors in the lung or colon may similarly be accessed by bronchoscopy or sigmoidoscopy, respectively. Tumor cells which have been transduced *in vivo* by, for example, a vector which expresses HSVTK, may then be destroyed by administration of acyclovir or
20 ganciclovir to the patient.

Within preferred embodiments of the invention, in addition to administration of a cytotoxic gene or gene products (*e.g.*, HSVTK) as described above, a variety of additional therapeutic compositions may be co-administered or sequentially administered to a warm-blooded animal, in order to inhibit or destroy a pathogenic agent. Such therapeutic
25 compositions may be administered directly, or, within other embodiments, expressed from independent vector constructs. Alternatively, a single vector which directs the expression of both a cytotoxic gene or gene product, and a gene which encodes the therapeutic composition (*e.g.*, a non-vector derived gene as discussed above) may be administered to the warm-blooded animal, in order to inhibit or destroy a pathogenic agent. Within a particularly
30 preferred embodiment, vector or VCLs which deliver and express both the HSVTK gene and a gene coding for an immune accessory molecule, such as human γ -IFN, may be administered to the patient. In such a construct, one gene may be expressed from the vector LTR and the other may utilize an additional transcriptional promoter found between the LTRs, or may be expressed as a polycistronic mRNA, possibly utilizing an internal ribosome
35 binding site. One example of such a provector is found in Example 10. After *in vivo* gene transfer, the patient's immune system is activated due to the expression of γ -IFN. After this has occurred, the overall tumor burden itself may be reduced by treating the patient with

acyclovir or ganciclovir, allowing more effective immune attack of the tumor. Infiltration of the dying tumor with inflammatory cells, in turn, increases immune presentation (*e.g.*, MHC class I or HLA presentation) and further improves the patient's immune response against the tumor. In addition, immune presentation also improves a patient's resistance to reoccurrence
5 of the tumor.

In addition to cancer, as noted above the methods of the present invention may be utilized to destroy or inhibit other pathogenic agents. For example, viral vectors of the present invention may be administered to human T-cell and/or macrophage/monocyte cell lines, in order to increase their resistance to HIV in the presence of AZT or ddC, as compared
10 to the same cells without viral vector treatment. Treatment with AZT may be at lower than normal levels to avoid toxic side effects, but still efficiently inhibit the spread of HIV.

Within a preferred embodiment of the invention, susceptible T-cells or monocytes may be targeted with vectors which carry VSV G, HIV env or hybrid env, in order to direct absorption of vector particles to CD4⁺ cells. For example, viral vectors may
15 be targeted by producing vector particles which will infect cells using the HIV env protein (gp120) as a receptor. Such HIV-tropic viruses may, within preferred embodiments be produced from an MLV-based packaging cell line constructed from cells which have naturally high levels of CD4 protein (for example, Sup T1 cells) and/or CD26 protein in their cell membrane, or from any cell type "engineered" to express such proteins. The resultant
20 virions, which form by budding from the cell membrane itself, contain the CD4 (and/or CD26) proteins in their membrane. Since membranes containing CD4 (and CD26) are known to fuse with membranes carrying HIV env, these virions should fuse with cells containing HIV env and result in the specific infection of HIV-infected cells which have gp120 on their surface. Such a packaging cell line may require the presence of an MLV env
25 protein to allow proper virion assembly and budding to result in infectious virions. If so, an MLV env which does not infect human cells (such as ecotropic env) would be used such that viral entry will occur only through the CD4 (and/or CDCC)/HIV env interaction and not through the MLV env cell receptor, which would presumably not depend upon the presence of HIV-env for infection. Alternatively, the requirement for MLV env may be satisfied by a
30 hybrid envelope where the amino-terminal binding domain has been replaced by the amino-terminal HIV-env binding domain of CD4 and/or CD26. This inversion of the normal virus-receptor interaction can be used for all types of viruses whose corresponding cellular receptor has been identified.

As will be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art given the disclosure
35 provided herein, any of the vector constructs described herein may be delivered not only as a viral vector, but as direct nucleic acid vectors. Such vectors may be delivered utilizing any appropriate physical method of gene transfer.

The following examples are offered by way of illustration, and not by way of limitation.

EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 1

5

CONSTRUCTION OF VECTORSA. Construction of plasmids containing vector LTR sequences

All of the following retroviral vectors are based on the N2 vector (Keller et al., *Nature* 318:149-154, 1985). Briefly, 5' and 3' Eco RI LTR fragments (2.8 and 1.0 kb, respectively) (Armentano, *J. Vir.* 61:1647, 1987; Eglitis, *Science* 230:1395, 1985) are initially subcloned into the Eco RI site of plasmids SK⁺ (Stratagene, San Diego, CA) and pUC31. pUC31 is a modification of pUC19 (Stratagene, San Diego, CA) carrying additional restriction sites (Xho I, Bgl II, BssH II, and Nco I) between the Eco RI and Sac I sites of the polylinker. Plasmid N2R3+/- is thereby created from ligation of the SK⁺ plasmid with the 1.0 kb 3' LTR fragment. The plasmids p31N2R5+/- and p31N2R3+/- are constructed from the ligation of pUC31 with the 2.8 kb 5' LTR and packaging signal (Ω) or the 1.0 kb 3' LTR fragment, respectively. In each case N2 refers to the vector source, R refers to the fact that the fragment is an Eco RI fragment, 5 and 3 refer to 5' or 3' LTRs, and + or - refers to the orientation of the insert (see Figures 1-6 for examples of LTR subclones).

In one case, a 1.2 kb Cla I/Eco RI 5' LTR and ψ fragment from N2 is subcloned into the same sites of an SK⁺ vector. This vector is designated pN2CR5. In another case, the 5' LTR containing a 6 bp deletion of the splice donor sequence (Yee et al., Cold Spring Harbor, Quantitative Biology, 51:1021, 1986) is subcloned as a 1.8 kb Eco RI fragment into pUC31. This vector is designated p31N25A[+], Figure 6.

25 B. Construction of plasmids containing HSVTK and HIV promoter

The coding region and transcriptional termination signals of HSV-1 thymidine kinase gene (HSVTK) are isolated as a 1.8 kb Bgl II/Pvu II fragment from plasmid 322TK (3.5 kb Bam HI fragment of HSV-1 (McKnight et al.) cloned into Bam HI of pBR322 (ATCC No. 31344)) and cloned into Bgl II/Sma I-digested pUC31. This construct is designated pUCTK. For constructs which require deletion of the terminator signals, pUCTK is digested with Sma I and Bam HI and the 0.3 kb fragment containing the (A)_n signal is removed. The remaining coding sequences and sticky-end Bam HI overhang are reconstituted with a double-stranded oligonucleotide made from the following oligomers:

- 5' GAG AGA TGG GGG AGG CTA ACT GAG 3' (SEQUENCE ID. NO. 1)
35 5' GAT CCT CAG TTA GCC TCC CCC ATC TCT C 3' (SEQUENCE ID. NO. 2)

The resulting construct is designated pTK Δ A, Figure 7.

For diagnostic purposes, the oligos are designed to destroy the Sma I site while maintaining the Ava I site without changing the translated protein.

The plasmid pPrTKΔA (Figure 8), which contains the HSVTK promoter and coding sequence (lacking an (A)_n signal), is constructed as follows:

- 5 1. pTKΔa is linearized with Bgl II treated with alkaline phosphatase, and gel purified.
2. A 0.8 kb fragment contained the HSVTK transcriptional promoter is isolated as a Bam HI/Bgl II fragment from p322TK.
3. Products from (1) and (2) are ligated, transformed into bacteria, and
10 positive clones are screened for the proper orientation of the promoter region. A resultant clone is designated pPrTKΔA (Figure 8).

The 0.6 kb HIV promoter sequences are cloned as a Dra I/Hind III fragment from pCV-1 (Arya et al., *Science* 229:69-73, 1985) into Hinc II/Hind III-cut SK⁺. The resulting construct is designated pSKHL.

15 C. Construction of retroviral provectors expressing HSVTK from a constitutive promoter

The retroviral provectors pTK-1, pTK-2 and pTK-3 are constructed essentially as described below.

- 20 1. The 5 kb Xho I/Hind III 5' LTR and plasmid sequences are isolated from p31N2R5(+) (Figure 1).
2. HSVTK coding sequences lacking transcriptional termination sequences are isolated as a 1.2 kb Xho I/Bam HI fragment from pTKΔA (Figure 2).
3. 3' LTR sequences are isolated as a 1.0 kb Bam HI/Hind III fragment from pN2R3(-) (Figure 2).
- 25 4. The fragments from steps 1-3 are mixed, ligated, transformed into bacteria, and individual clones identified by restriction enzyme analysis. The construct is designated TK-1 (Figure 9).
5. pTK-3 is constructed by linearizing TK-1 with Bam HI, filling in the 5' overhang and blunt-end ligating a 5'-filled Cla I/Cla I fragment containing the bacterial lac
30 UV5 promoter, SV40 early promoter, plus Tn5 Neo^r gene obtained from pAFVXM retroviral vector (Krieger et al., *Cell* 39:483, 1984; St. Louis et al., *PNAS* 85:3150, 1988). Kanamycin-resistant clones are isolated and individual clones are screened for the proper orientation by restriction enzyme analysis (see Figure 9).

pTK-2 is constructed essentially as follows (see Figure 10):

- 35 1. The plasmid p31N2R5(+) (Figure 1) is cut with Xho I and Hind III.

2. A 2.0 kb fragment containing the HSVTK coding sequence (lacking its (A)_n sequence) and the HSVTK transcriptional promoter is isolated from Xho I/Hind III cut pPrTKΔ (Figure 8).

3. Isolating the 3' LTR as a 1.0 kb fragment from Bam HI/Hind III cut
5 pN2R3(-) (Figure 2).

4. The fragments from 1, 2 and 3 above are ligated, transformed into bacteria, and amp^r clones of the appropriate structure identified by restriction enzyme analysis.

These constructs are used to generate infectious recombinant vector particles
10 in conjunction with a packaging cell line.

D. Construction of pKTVIHAX

The retroviral vector pKTVIHAX is constructed essentially as described below (see Figure 11).

15 1. The 9.2 kb Asu II/Xho I fragment is isolated from N2 vector DNA (Keller et al., *Nature* 318:149, 1985).

2. The 0.6 kb Xho I/Bam HI promoter fragment is isolated from plasmid pSKHL from Example 1B.

3. The 0.3 kb Bgl II/Acc I and 1.5 kb Acc I/Acc I fragment are purified
20 from pUCTK from Example 1B.

4. The fragments from 1, 2, and 3 are ligated, transformed into bacteria, and appropriate ampicillin resistant clones of the given structure identified by restriction enzyme analysis.

25 E. Construction of pKTVIH-5 and pKTVIH5 Neo retroviral vectors

The retroviral vectors pKTVIH-5 and pKTVIH5 Neo are constructed essentially as described below (see Figure 12).

1. The 5' LTR and vector fragment is isolated as a 4.5 kb Xho I/Bam HI fragment from vector p31N25Δ(+) (Figure 6).

30 2. The 3' LTR is isolated as a 1.0 kb Apa I/Bam HI fragment from pN2R3(+) (Figure 4).

3. The 0.6 kb HIV promoter element is isolated from pSKHL as an Apa I/Eco RI fragment from Example 1B.

4. The HSVTK coding sequence and transcriptional termination
35 sequences are isolated as a 1.8 kb Eco RI/Sal I fragment from pUCTK from Example 1B.

5. The fragments from 1-4 are combined, ligated, transformed into bacteria, and clones of the desired construct are identified by restriction enzyme analysis. The construct is designated pKTVIH-5, Figure 12.

6. Plasmid pKTVIH5 Neo is constructed by linearizing pKTVIH5 with
5 Cla I; mixing with a 1.8 kb Cla I fragment containing the bacterial lac UV5 promoter, SV40 early promoter, and Tn5 Neo^r marker obtained from pAFVXM, ligating, transforming bacteria and selecting for kanamycin resistance. Clones with the insert in the indicated orientation are identified by restriction analysis (Figure 12).

10 F. Construction of MHMTK Neo retroviral vector

The retroviral vector MHMTK Neo is constructed essentially as described below (see Figure 14).

15 1. Construction of intermediate plasmid MHM-1 LTR.

a) Plasmid pN2CR5 from Example 1A is linearized by partial digestion with Fok I, the 5' overhang filled in with deoxynucleotide triphosphates using Klenow DNA polymerase, and Hind III linkers inserted. After transformation into bacteria, a clone with a Hind III linker inserted in the MLV LTR Fok I site is
20 identified by restriction enzyme analysis. This plasmid is designated pN2CR5FH.

b) Plasmid pN2CR5FH is linearized with Nhe I, the 5' overhang filled in with Klenow polymerase digested with Hind III, and the 4.3 kb fragment with promoterless LTR sequences isolated.

c) 0.5 kb Eco RV/Hind III HIV promoter sequences are isolated
25 from pSKHL from Example 1B.

d) b and c are mixed, ligated, used to transform bacteria, and the structure of MHM-1 is confirmed by restriction enzyme analysis (see Figure 13).

2. The 0.7 kb Eco RV/Bal I fragment isolated from MHM-1 is repaired and subcloned into the Eco RV site of plasmid I30B. I30B is a modified IBI30 plasmid
30 containing additional Bgl II, Bst II, Nco I and Nde I sites in the polylinker). After transformation into bacteria, clones with the desired orientation are identified by restriction enzyme analysis. This construct is designated pMHMB.

3. Plasmid pMHMB is digested with Apa I and Xho I and the 0.8 Kb fragment (to be used as the 3' LTR) was gel purified.

35 4. MHM-1 LTR is digested with Apa I/Bam HI and the 1.8 kb MHM-1 LTR (Figure 13) packaging sequence gel purified.

5. The 2.8 kb Bgl II/Sal I fragment containing the HSVTK coding region upstream of the SV40 early promoter driving Neo^r obtained from pTK-3 (see Figure 9).

6. 3-5 are mixed, ligated, used to transform bacteria, and desired clones are identified by restriction enzyme analysis.

5 This vector and similar vectors which contain inducible elements in their LTR's result in an added safety feature. Briefly, since the LTR is inactive in the absence of HIV, insertional downstream activation of undesirable host genes (such as proto-oncogenes) does not occur. However, tat expression in the packaging cell line allows facile manipulation of the virion in tissue culture.

10 G. Construction of RRKTVIH retroviral vector

The retroviral vector RRKTVIH is constructed essentially as described below (see Figure 17).

1. The 9.2 kb Asu II/Xho I fragment is isolated from N2 vector DNA
15 (Keller et al., *Nature* 318:145, 1985).

2. The 0.6 kb Xho I/Eco RI HIV promoter fragment is isolated from plasmid pSKHL from Example 1B.

3. The HIV rev responsive HSVTK (RRTK) is constructed in the following manner:

20 a) The HSVTK gene is subcloned as a 1.8 kb Hinc II/Pvu II fragment into the Eco RV site of vector SK⁺. This construct is designated pSTK(-). (Figure 15.)

25 b) The 1.8 kb Kpn I/Hind III fragment which contains the CRS/CAR elements from HIV IIIB env is repaired and blunt-end ligated into the Sma I site of vector I30B. This construct is designated pCRS/CAR(-). I30B is a modified IBI30 plasmid containing the same additional restriction sites as for pUC31 with an Nde I site instead of the IBI30 Xho I site.

c) The 3.6 kb BssH II/Eco RI fragment containing vector and HSVTK polyadenylation signals is isolated from pSTK-,

30 d) The 1.8 kb Bam HI/BssH II CRS/CAR fragment is isolated from pCRS/CAR- (Figure 16).

e) The 1.2 Eco RI/Bam HI coding sequence fragment is isolated from pTKΔA (Figure 7).

35 f) c, d and e are ligated and desired recombinant vector constructs are screened by restriction enzyme analysis.

4. Rev-responsive HSVTK is isolated as a 3.6 kb Eco RI/Cla I fragment.

5. 1, 2 and 4 are ligated and appropriate recombinants identified by restriction enzyme analysis.

H. Construction of tat and anti-tat expression vectors.

5 The expression vector tat and anti-tat are constructed essentially as described below (see Figure 18). These vectors are used as pseudo-HIV to test-activate tat-dependent HSVTK vectors.

1. The His^r expression vector pBamHis is linearized with Bam HI and treated with calf intestinal alkaline phosphatase.

10 2. The Sac I site of pCV-1 (Arya et al., *Science* 229:69-73, 1985) is mutagenized to a Bam HI site and the 350 bp Bam HI coding sequence of HIV tat is isolated.

3. The fragments purified in steps 1 and 2 are mixed, ligated, used to transform bacteria, and clones with tat in both orientations (expressing tat or the "anti-sense" tat) are identified by restriction enzyme analysis.

15 These constructs are used to generate infectious recombinant vector particles in conjunction with a packaging cell line such as PA317 (ATCC No. 9078) essentially as follows. Briefly, 10 µg of plasmid provector is transfected by calcium phosphate precipitation onto ψ2 cells, and the supernatants used to infect PA317 cells. These vectors are genetically stable and result in predictable proviral structure as judged by Southern blot
20 analysis of restriction-enzyme-digested genomic DNA from individual clones of infected cells (39/40 clones tested had proviruses of the expected size).

EXAMPLE 2

PACKAGING OF VECTOR CONSTRUCTS

25 The biological properties of these retroviral vectors are described hereinafter. The HIV tat gene ("tathis" vector -- see Figure 18) is transfected into mouse PA317 cells. Five individual histidinol-resistant subclones are obtained, designated TH 1-5 which express
30 HIV tat. These cells are thus an experimental approximation of HIV infected cells. The vectors KTVIHAX (from Example 1D), KTVIH5Neo (from Example 1E), and MHMTKNeo (from Example 1F), are subsequently introduced by infection into these tat-expressing cell lines as well as their parent cell line lacking tat. Cell viability is then determined in various concentrations of the HSVTK-specific cytotoxic drug, acyclovir (ACV). The data are
35 reported here as LD50 (the drug concentration at which 50% toxicity is observed) interpolated from graphs of viable cells vs ACV concentration. The parental cell line containing the HSVTK vectors but lacking tat (non-HIV-infected model) showed no

detectable toxicity by ACV at the concentrations tested. These cells thus require 100 μ M ACV or greater for cytotoxicity. This is true also for these cells lacking the vectors. Thus the vectors alone, ACV alone, or even the vector +ACV is not cytotoxic. However, cell lines which express HIV tat (the experimental representation of an HIV infection) are effectively
5 killed by ACV (Figure 21). This is true to varying degrees for all three vectors tested. These data indicate that HIV-infected cells will be killed in the presence of ACV and "potentiator" vectors.

In an analogous experiment, vectors KTVIHAX and KTVIH5 Neo are introduced by infection into human T-cell and monocyte cell lines Sup T1 (*Science*
10 234:1123), H9, HL60 (ATCC No. CCL240), H9 (ATCC No. HTB176), and U937 (ATCC No. CRL1593) cells. Subsequently, these cells are infected with tathis or anti-tat vectors, selected in histidinol, and cell viability determined at various concentrations of the ACV analog, Fluoro-iodo-arabinoside-uridine (FIAU). The LD₅₀ reported in Table 1 (below)
15 indicate that a vector dependent increase in FIAU toxicity occurs in the absence of HIV tat but is increased an additional ten- to twentyfold when tat is present. This indicates that although there is a baseline HSVTK expression in all but HL60 cells, expression is even greater in the presence of HIV tat. Addition of the HSVTK vectors alone had no detectable increase in ACV toxicity in HL60 cells in the absence of HIV tat.

TABLE 1
HIV tat inducibility of FIAU cytotoxicity in human
monocyte and T-cell lines infected with conditionally
lethal recombinant retroviral vectors

	<u>Cell Type</u>	<u>Vectors</u>	<u>tat</u>	<u>LD50FIAU(1M)</u>
5	HL60 ("monocyte")	--	-	50
		--	+	50
10		KTVIHAX	-	50
		KTVIHAX	+	<0.2
		KTVIH5Neo	-	50
		KTVIH5Neo	+	<0.2
15	U937 ("monocyte")	--	-	10
		KTVIHAX	-	0.5
		KTVIHAX	+	0.05
		KTVIH5Neo	-	0.5
		KTVIH5Neo	+	0.05
20	Sup T1 ("T-cell")	--	-	10
		--	+	5
		KTVIHAX	-	0.5
		KTVIHAX	+	0.05
25		KTVIH5Neo	-	0.5
		KTVIH5Neo	+	0.05
	H9 ("T-cell")	--	-	10
		KTVIHAX	-	2
30		KTVIHAX	+	0.2
		KTVIH5Neo	-	1
		KTVIH5Neo	+	0.05

Similarly, HIV infection of human T-cell line H9 containing HSVTK vector KTVIHAX +/- FIAU show a fivefold preferential inhibition of infection (through cell killing) in the presence of FIAU. Cultures are first treated with vector, then challenged with HIV for 4 days with or without FIAU. Viral supernatants are then titered using the soluble alkaline phosphatase assay described below.

Soluble Alkaline Phosphatase Assay

Medium was removed from infected cells, microfuged for 10 seconds, and then heated to 68°C for 10 minutes to destroy endogenous phosphatases. The medium was then microfuged for 2 minutes and an aliquot (10-50 µl) removed for assay. 100 µl of buffer (1 M diethanolamine, pH 9.8; 0.5 Mm MgCl₂; 10 mM L-homoarginine) was added and then

20 μ l of 120 mM p-nitrophenylphosphate (in buffers) was added. The A₄₀₅ of the reaction mixture was monitored using an automatic plate reader.

Figures 7 and 8 depict typical results of a time course of HIV infection of Sup T1 cells using the alkaline phosphatase assay in the presence of varying concentrations of antiviral drugs. The "+" and "-" on day 6 indicate the presence or absence of syncytia respectively.

EXAMPLE 3

10 CONSTRUCTION OF PBH-1 AND PM γ -IFN/TK VECTORS

pRRTK from Example 1G is digested with Xho I and Bam HI in order to obtain a 1.2 Kb fragment containing the HSVTK gene. This fragment is ligated into pSP72 (Promega Corp., Madison, WI) at the Xho I and Bam HI restriction sites found in the polylinker. This plasmid is designated pRRTK-B. pRRTK-B is digested with Xho I and Cla I to obtain a 1.2 Kb fragment containing the HSVTK gene. This fragment is then ligated into KT-3 (the construction of this vector is described in WO 91/02805) after digestion with Xho I and Cla I site removal of the Kb HIV gag/prot fragment by gel purification. This plasmid is designated pBH-1.

20

EXAMPLE 4

CONSTRUCTION OF DA/TK-3, DA/BH-1, DA M γ -IFN/TK, AND HA H γ -IFN/TK PRODUCER CELL LINES

25 Ten micrograms of pTK-3 DNA (Figure 9) and 10 μ g of pMLP-G DNA (the construction of this vector is described in WO 92/14829) is cotransfected into 293 2-3 (a cell line derived from 293 cells ATCC No. CRL 1573, WO 92/05266) using a standard CaPO₄ method. Forty-eight hours after transfection, the supernatant is collected and filtered through a 0.45 μ m syringe filter. This supernatant contains G-pseudotyped TK-3 vector which is used to infect freshly prepared DA (a cell line derived from D-17 ATCC No. CCL 183, WO 30 92/05266) cells. Twenty-four hours after adding the viral supernatant, the DA cells are placed under G-418 selection (800 μ g/ml). After 7-9 days, a G-418 selected non-clonal pool is obtained and designated DA/TK-3. High titer clones can be identified by limited dilution cloning and screening individual isolates for the highest titer whose vector also expresses 35 HSVTK. This can be accomplished by determining Neo colony forming units by transducing a cell line which lacks cellular thymidine kinase such as 3T3TK⁻ or Hela TK⁻ and placing the

cells in geneticin and HAT medium. The number of colonies growing under these conditions would reflect the number of transduced cells expressing Neo and HSVTK.

DA/BH-1 VCL was generated identically to DA/TK-3 with pBH-1 substituted for pTK-3. The generation of VCL for $m\chi$ -IFN/TK and $h\chi$ -IFN/TK is complicated by the fact that the vector does not contain a readily selectable drug resistance marker (such as Neo). The only known selection for HSVTK utilizes HAT medium with cells that lack endogenous TK (TK-). There are several ways by which VCLs for provectors such as $m\chi$ -IFN/TK and $h\chi$ -IFN/TK can be generated.

1. The PCL used to generate the VCL may be TK-. For instance, DA cells (TK+) could be grown in the presence of bromodeoxy uridine. This nucleotide analog is toxic specifically for cells that express TK and thus a rare mutant in the TK gene of DH would be selected for in culture. The frequency of this mutant could be increased by prior mutagenesis by physical means such as UV or χ irradiation or by chemical means such as exposure to chemical mutagen. Once the TK- variant of DA is generated, cells transduced with vectors such as $m\chi$ -IFN/TK or $h\chi$ -IFN/TK are selected for in HAT medium.

2. Selection in TK+ cells may be possible in some cell lines that contain relatively low levels of endogenous TK and may express the vector HSVTK at relatively high levels. This may be particularly true if HSVTK is expressed using a very active transcriptional promoter, e.g., the TK expressed from the LTR or CMV immediate early promoter. In this case, a modified HAT medium with below standard levels of thymidine may preferentially rescue transduced cells from the aminoptererin toxicity of HAT medium.

3. Selection for cells that express HSVTK may occur even in cells that express cellular TK ("dominant selection") since the substrate specificity of HSVTK is much broader than that of cellular TK. This difference can be exploited to select for HSVTK by using a selective medium similar to that used for the selection of Eco gpt (Stuhlmann et al., *PNAS* 81:7151, 1984). This selective medium utilized mycophenolic acid (Sigma Chem. Co., St. Louis, MO) to inhibit purine nucleotide biosynthesis resulting in cell death. If the cell expresses HSVTK, purine nucleosides such as xanthosine, may be phosphorylated by HSVTK to yield XMP, a precursor to both AMP and GMP. Thus, cells which express HSVTK may be selected in the same medium used for Eco gpt selection, with xanthosine substituted for xanthine.

4. VCLs may also be generated by selecting for the expression of vector genes other than the HSVTK gene. For example, VCLs containing vectors (KT1/TK) which express membrane bound proteins such may be sorted by fluorescence activated cell sorting. Alternatively, $h\chi$ -IFN/TK transduced VCLs may be sorted by the known increase of MHC class I and class II (as long as the PCL is human, since χ -IFN is highly species specific).

5. Further, clonal VCLs may be generated and identified in the absence of selection. This approach utilized the VSVG pseudotyped vector generated on 293 2-3 as described above, except that the DA cells will be transduced at high M.O.I. For example, 1 ml of vector generated by transient transfection (approximately 1×10^5 cfu/ml on 3T3TK-) is used to transduce 1×10^4 cells 1 time, 3 times, or 10 times to ensure that the majority of cells are transduced in at least 1 culture. The cells are then cloned by limiting dilution and individual isolates screened for high titer on 3T3TK- cells (or Hela TK- if xenotropic vector) in HAT medium.

EXAMPLE 5

DETERMINATION OF THE EFFECT OF GANCICLOVIR ON CT26 WITH OR WITHOUT TK-3

In order to determine whether or not ganciclovir had an effect on CT26 cells that were transduced with DA/TK-3 (CT26 TKneo), CT26 TKneo cells were seeded into six 10 cm² plates at a density of 2.5×10^6 per plate. As contrasts, each of two other cell types, CT26 and CT26 Bgal (this cell line was transduced with a virus carrying the reporter gene β -galactosidase from *E. coli*), were also seeded into six 10 cm² plates as controls. Five plates of each cell type were treated twice per day for four consecutive days with medium containing ganciclovir concentrations of 100 ug/ml, 50 ug/ml, 25 ug/ml, 12.5 ug/ml and 6.25 ug/ml. One plate of each cell type was left untreated. Afterwards, the cells were removed from each dish using trypsin, resuspended in DMEM with 10% FBS and counted. The data in Figure 22 shows that even the lowest dose of ganciclovir had a dramatic cytotoxic effect on the CT26 TKneo cells. This dose of ganciclovir (6.25 ug/ml) or even the next higher dose (12.5 ug/ml) did not have an effect on either the CT26 or CT26 Bgal cells. However, beginning at a ganciclovir dose of 25 ug/ml, a dose-dependent decrease in cell growth could be seen, although CT26 TK Neo cells were always more sensitive to the drug.

EXAMPLE 6

DETERMINATION OF A GANCICLOVIR DOSE FOR THE TREATMENT OF MICE INJECTED WITH CT26 TK NEO CELLS

In order to test whether *in vivo* transduction of a murine tumor could be used to treat the disease, an experiment was performed to determine the optimal concentration of ganciclovir necessary to eliminate a tumor that was transduced and selected *in vitro* to assure 100% transduction. Colon tumor 26, CT26, (Brattain, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston,

TX) cells are transduced with G-pseudotyped TK-3 vector. Twenty-four hours after adding the viral supernatant, the CT26 cells are placed under G-418 selection (450 µg/ml). After 10 days incubation, a G-418 selected pool is obtained and designated CT26TK Neo. Twelve groups of 3 mice each are injected with 2×10^5 CT26TK Neo cells. Six groups of mice are injected with these cells intraperitoneally (I.P.) and six groups of mice are injected subcutaneously (S.C.). Two other groups of 3 mice each are injected with 2×10^5 unmodified CT26 cells (as a control) either I.P. or S.C..

Ten days after the injection of the CT26 or CT26TK Neo cells into these groups of mice, several concentrations of ganciclovir treatment are initiated. Each dose regimen consists of 2 daily AM and PM I.P. injections of ganciclovir. The experiment is summarized in Table A below.

TABLE A

Group	Innoculum	Injection Route	Concentration of Ganciclovir (Mg/Kg)
1	CT26	I.P.	0
2	CT26 TKneo	I.P.	0
3	CT26 TKneo	I.P.	15.63
4	CT26 TKneo	I.P.	31.25
5	CT26 TKneo	I.P.	32.5
6	CT26 TKneo	I.P.	125.0
7	CT26 TKneo	I.P.	250.0
8	CT26 TKneo	I.P.	500.0
9	CT26	Subq.	0
10	CT26 TKneo	Subq.	0
11	CT26 TKneo	Subq.	15.63
12	CT26 TKneo	Subq.	31.25
13	CT26 TKneo	Subq.	62.5
14	CT26 TKneo	Subq.	125.0
15	CT26 TKneo	Subq.	250.0
16	CT26 TKneo	Subq.	500.0

After 5 days, all of the mice in the 125 mg/Kg, 250 mg/Kg and 500 mg/Kg treated groups were dead due to the toxic effects of ganciclovir. Mice in the 15.63 mg/Kg, 31.25 mg/Kg and 62.5 mg/Kg treated groups were treated for an additional 7 days and were able to tolerate the treatment. Tumor measurements were made for 23 days (Figure 23). CT26TK Neo grew only slightly slower than unmodified CT26. Complete tumor regression was seen in the groups of mice treated with the 62.5 mg/Kg regimen. Partial tumor regression was seen in the 31.25 mg/Kg treated groups. Little or no effect was seen in the 15.63 mg/Kg

treated groups as compared to the 2 untreated control groups. Even though there was some toxicity observed in the 62.5 mg/Kg groups, it was not life threatening and reversible upon the discontinuation of the treatments so this concentration was used for future studies (Figure 23). After 24 days, the I.P. injected animals were sacrificed and evaluated. As seen in
5 Figures 24 and 25 the optimal concentration for anti-tumor effect was similar whether the tumor was grown I.P. or S.C..

EXAMPLE 7

10 COMPARISON OF CYTOTOXICITY ON CT26 AND CT26TK NEO IN VIVO TUMOR GROWTH

In order to determine whether ganciclovir has an effect on the growth of unmodified CT26 tumor cells *in vivo*, 2 groups of 7 mice are injected S.C. with 2×10^5
15 unmodified CT26 cells and 2 groups of 7 mice are injected S.C. with 2×10^5 CT26TK Neo cells. Seven days after tumor implantation, one group of CT26 injected mice and one group of CT26TK Neo injected mice are placed on a twice daily (AM and PM) regimen of I.P. ganciclovir at 62.5 mg/Kg. These mice are treated for 12 days or until the CT26TK Neo injected animals have no detectable tumor burden. Tumor growth is monitored over a three
20 week period. Mice injected with CT26 and treated with ganciclovir had tumors that were somewhat smaller than untreated mice injected with CT26, indicating a small HSVTK-independent inhibition of tumor growth (Figure 26). However, a dramatic decrease in tumor burden was observed if, and only if, CT26 TKneo containing mice were treated with
25 ganciclovir (Figure 26).

EXAMPLE 8

30 INJECTION OF β -GAL DIRECT VECTOR INTO MICE INJECTED WITH CT26 TUMOR CELLS.

To assess whether tumor cells could become transduced *in vivo* by the direct injection of vector, a reporter vector that expresses the *E. coli* β -galactosidase gene (CB β -gal) was used. Five groups of two mice each are injected S.C. with 2×10^5 CT 26 tumor cells. Another group of two mice are S.C. injected with the 2×10^5 CT 26 β -gal-expressing cells as
35 a control for β -gal staining. The injection area on each mouse was circled with water-resistant marker. Two days after tumor cell inoculation, mice are injected with 0.2 ml of either PBS plus polybrene(4 μ g/ml), CB β -gal (5×10^6 colony forming units (CFU) ml) with

and without polybrene, or DA χ -IFN #15 with and without polybrene. Mice in each group are injected with their respective inoculant every two days within the area marked by water-resistant marker. Each group receives a total of four injections. Two days after the last injections, tumors from each of the groups of mice are removed, minced, and seeded into two
 5 10 cm² plates containing DMEM plus 10% FBS and antibiotics. These tumor explants are allowed to grow *in vitro* for one week. After one week one the cells are harvested, fixed with 2% formaldehyde and stained with X-gal overnight. The results of this experiment are presented below:

10	<u>Tumor Type and Treatment</u>	<u>Total Number of Cells</u>	<u>Number of Blue Cells</u>	<u>% Blue</u>
	1. CT26 (PBS+ polybrene)	7.4 x 10 ⁶	2.4 x 10 ⁵	3.2%
	2. CT26 β -gal	6.2 x 10 ⁶	2.0 x 10 ⁶	31.6%
	3. CT26 + β -gal vector w/o poly	6.6 x 10 ⁶	8.8 x 10 ⁵	13.3%
15	4. CT26 + β -gal vector w/poly	6.4 x 10 ⁶	1.3 x 10 ⁶	20.0%
	5. CT26 + DA χ IFN #15 w/o poly	6.9 x 10 ⁶	2.0 x 10 ⁵	2.9%
	6. CT26 + DA χ IFN #15 w/poly	1.3 x 10 ⁶	3.0 x 10 ⁴	2.7%

Due to the overnight staining, there was a substantial background staining of the unmodified
 20 CT26 or CT26 injected with χ -IFN vector as a staining control (3%). Under these conditions, a maximum net of 17% of the cells stained (20 minus the 3% background). Given that the positive control (100% transduced) was only 28.6% stained itself, the 17% stain indicates that (17/28.6) x 100 or 60% of the cells were transduced *in vivo*. It is important to note that the tumor cells being transduced were in log phase and that the
 25 multiplicity of infection (M.O.I.) therefore decreased with tumor growth. These results from this experiment were used to design the next experiment.

EXAMPLE 9

30 IN VIVO TRANSDUCTION OF CT26 TUMOR CELLS BY TK-3 DIRECT VECTOR

This experiment is designed to demonstrate that TK-3 vector can deliver the HSVTK gene to a target cell *in vivo* and inhibit tumor growth in the presence of ganciclovir.
 35 Briefly, six groups of 10 mice are injected S.C. with 1 X 10⁵ CT26 tumor cells. In addition, one group of 10 mice is injected S.C. with 1 X 10⁵ CT26TK Neo cells as a control. The area of the S.C. injection is circled with a water-resistant marker. Twenty-four hours after tumor

implantation, TK-3 or β -gal viral supernatants (0.2 ml) formulated with polybrene (4 μ g/ml) are injected within the area marked by the water-resistant marker. Vector administration is continued for four consecutive days with one dose of vector per day. Each vector dose contained 2×10^5 CFU/ml. Twenty-four hours after the last vector treatment, these mice are placed on a twice daily (AM and PM) injections of I.P. ganciclovir at 62.5 mg/Kg for 8 days. Finally, the mice receive a single dose of ganciclovir at 62.5 mg/Kg until the end of the experiment. Tumor growth was measured over a 4 week period (Figure 27). The experiment is summarized in Table B below.

Group	Innoculum	Retroviral Vector	Ganciclovir
1	CT26	None	None
2	CT26 TKneo	None	None
3	CT26 TKneo	None	62.5 Mg/Kg
4	CT26	TK-3	None
5	CT26	TK-3	62.5 Mg/Kg
6	CT26	CB Bgal	None
7	CT26	CB Bgal	62.5 Mg/Kg

The data indicate that a substantial rate of growth of CT26 occurred only when the animal was injected with both TK-3 and ganciclovir. The level of inhibition was not as substantial as that observed for CT26 TKneo *in vitro* transduced and selected presumably in due to less than 100% *in vivo* transduction. Surprisingly, there was also a decrease in tumor growth when treated with the control vector, CB- β -gal and ganciclovir. This may indicate some inhibition of tumor growth due to the vector cell free supernatant itself, added with the previously observed small decrease caused by ganciclovir alone (Figure 26). Regardless of that observation, the average tumor size is significantly smaller in the TK-3/ganciclovir treated animals than that of the CB- β -gal/ganciclovir treated animals (7 fold and 10 fold and 75-fold smaller, at the 14 and 21 day time points, respectively). Thus, it appears that *in vivo* transduction by direct injection of HSVTK expressing retroviral vectors can result in inhibition of tumor growth in combination with ganciclovir administration.

In addition to delivering a gene of interest *in vivo* using direct injection of vector, mice can be treated by injecting the vector producer cell line from a PCL such as DA into or around the tumor (or both). Varying numbers of irradiated or unirradiated vector producer cells can be injected with and without a polycationic reagent to improve transduction efficiencies. Control mice would be injected with diluent D17 (Parent, non-PCL) transduced with TK-3 and a CB- β -gal VCL. After sufficient time for *in vivo*

transduction (approximately 2 weeks) ganciclovir injections would commence and efficacy would be determined by tumor measurements and/or overall survival.

5

EXAMPLE 10

CONSTRUCTION OF HSVTK VECTOR CONTAINING COMPANION GENES OTHER THAN A RESISTANCE MARKER

10 The purpose for designing retroviral vectors with fail-safe capabilities containing a conditionally lethal gene such as HSVTK is to allow control of expression of the therapeutic gene after it has been administered to patients. Cells expressing the herpes simplex thymidine kinase gene become sensitive to ganciclovir, whereas normal cells are unaffected (Moolten et al., *Cancer Res.* 46:5276, 1986). The length of time the therapeutic gene is expressed can be limited or shut down in case the modified cells become harmful.

15 Expression of HSVTK by the vector also confers sensitivity (e.g., to ganciclovir upon the vector producing cell line). If VCLs are directly injected for *in vivo* transduction, they can then be destroyed by ganciclovir after their purpose is accomplished.

20 A. Construction of the retroviral provector pKT1-TK, expressing HIV III/Benv and HSVI thymidine kinase

The retroviral provector pKT1-TK was constructed by first digesting TK-2 with Xho I, followed by Klenow treatment and dephosphorylation with calf intestine alkaline phosphatase. The treated linearized TK-2 was then ligated to phosphorylated Cla I linkers followed by transformation of bacteria. The correct individual clone was identified by
25 restriction enzyme analysis and referred to as TK-2 (Cla I (Figure 10)). A 2.0 kb Cla I fragment, containing both the TK promoter and TK coding sequences, was then isolated from TK-2 (Cla I). The KT1 retroviral vector (Recombinant Retroviruses Patent Application # 586,603) containing the HIV IIIB env was prepared by digesting with Cla I, followed by treatment with calf intestine alkaline phosphatase, and gel purified on a 1% agarose gel. The
30 isolated 2.0 kb Cla I fragment from TK-2 was then ligated to the pretreated KT1 vector, transformed into bacteria, and correct individual clones identified by restriction enzyme analysis. The resulting retroviral vector was named KT1-TK (*see* Figure 28). Of course, other promoters such as the CMV immediate early promoter could be used instead of the HSVTK promoter. A vector of this nature may be used to induce immune responses against
35 HIV env while allowing the investigator to destroy transduced cells at any time by administration of ganciclovir.

B. Construction of the retroviral provector, pKT-HBc/TK, expressing the HBV core gene and HSV-1 thymidine kinase

A retroviral provector pKT-HBc/TK was generated by cutting the pKT1-HBc "Neoless" provector DNA (see U.S. Application Serial No. 08/102,132, filed August 4, 1993) with Cla I. This was then ligated with the 2.0 kb Cla I fragment from pTK-2 (Cla I), used to transform bacteria, and individual isolates were screened for the correct orientation. See Figure 29.

C. Construction of the retroviral vector, pm χ TK and ph χ TK, expression of human or murine γ -IFN, respectively, and the HSVTK gene

The retroviral provectors, pm χ TK and ph χ TK, could be generated in the following steps.

1. pKT-1 is cut with Cla I. The linearized plasmid is then treated with calf intestinal phosphatase (CIP) to remove the phosphoryl moiety at the Cla I site. After extraction of the CIP by phenol:chloroform extraction, the plasmid is cut with Xho I. The resultant 5 kb fragment containing the pUC vector, 5' and 3' LTRs, and packaging sequence would be gel purified from the smaller HIVenv and SVNeo^r fragments.

2. The coding sequences for murine or human γ -IFN are gel purified after cutting the plasmids pSP72m γ -IFN or pSP72h γ -IFN (see U.S. Application Serial No. 08/032,846, filed March 17, 1993), respectively, with Cla I. The linearized plasmid is then treated with CIP to remove the phosphoryl moiety from the Cla I site. After extraction of the CIP by phenol:chloroform, the plasmid is cut with Xho I and the resultant 0.5 kb fragment purified by gel electrophoresis.

3. The HSVTK promoter and coding region will be isolated from Cla I cut pTK-2 (Cla I).

4. 1, 2 and 3 well mixed, ligated, used to transform bacteria, and plasmid is clonal transformants will be screened for the proper orientation of the HSVTK promoter/gene. See Figure 30.

EXAMPLE 11

INDUCTION OF AN IMMUNE RESPONSE IN MICE TREATED WITH TK VECTOR AND GANCICLOVIR

A. Construction of TK Retrovector Constructs

The original gene coding for the thymidine kinase of herpes simplex virus type 1 was a 1.8 kb Bgl II/Pvu II fragment from plasmid 322TK (McKnight et al.) (see Example 1). The 5' promoter and the 3' polyadenylation signal were removed, and the gene

was further modified to possess a 5' Xho I site as well as a 3' Cla I site. This newly modified HSV-TK gene was then cloned into the Xho I and Cla I sites of an N2-based vector backbone derived from the Moloney Murine Leukemia Virus that has the normal ATG methionine initiator codon for *gag* expression mutated to ATT to inhibit *gag* expression (BH1-TK construct). The retroviral LTR controls the expression of the HSV-TK gene and a downstream SV40 promoter drives the expression of the neomycin resistance marker. These vectors were introduced into packaging cells (DA and HX, see WO 92/14829), essentially as described in Example 4.

10 B. Cytotoxicity Assays

⁵¹Cr release cytotoxicity assays for murine splenic effector cells were conducted as described below. Briefly, at various time intervals after complete tumor ablation in mice injected with CT26TK and treatment with ganciclovir, the mice were sacrificed and splenocytes (3 x 10⁶/ml) cultured *in vitro* with unmodified irradiated CT26 cells (6 x 10⁴/ml) in T-25 cm² flasks (Corning, Corning, NY). Culture medium consisted of RPMI-1640, 5% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (Hyclone, Logan, UT), 2mM glutamine, 1mM sodium pyruvate, 1X non essential amino acids, 10mM HEPES, gentamycin (50 mg/ml), and 2-mercaptoethanol (10⁻⁵ M). Effector cells were harvested 4-7 days later and tested using several effector:target ratios (E:T = 100:1, 30:1, 10:1, 3:1 and 1:1, each ratio set up in triplicate wells) in 96-well microtiter plates in a standard 4-6 hour assay. The assay employed Na²⁵¹CrO₄ (Amersham, Arlington Heights, IL)-labeled CT26 or CT26TK target cells (1x 10⁴ cells/well) in a final volume of 200ml. Following incubation, assay culture supernatants were harvested and assayed for specific ⁵¹chromium release (counts per minute) by using a Beckman gamma spectrometer. Spontaneous release was determined as counts per minute from targets plus medium and was typically 10%-20 % of the maximum release. The maximum release was determined as counts per minute from targets plus 1M HCl. The per cent target cell lysis was calculated as (experimental release- spontaneous release)/(maximum release- spontaneous release) x 100.

30 C. Results

After complete tumor ablation in mice injected with CT26TK cells and treated with ganciclovir, the respective splenocytes were harvested, restimulated *in vitro* and the resulting effector cells were analyzed for their ability to lyse unmodified CT26 or CT26TK cells. Significant cytotoxic responses against both CT26 and CT26TK cells were observed in splenocytes obtained from mice whose CT26TK tumors were ablated by ganciclovir (see Figure 32), whereas splenocytes from CT26 tumor bearing mice and restimulated with CT26 exhibited negligible lysis (Figure 31). These results demonstrate that the ablation of tumor

cells by the introduction of the TK prodrug vector, followed by the prodrug itself, generates an effective and potent CTL response against the unmodified tumor cells.

- 5 From the foregoing, it will be appreciated that, although specific embodiments of the invention have been described herein for purposes of illustration, various modifications may be made without deviating from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is not limited except as by the appended claims.

SEQUENCE LISTING

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10

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25

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(B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
(C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
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30

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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 24 base pairs

15

(B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

20

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

25 GAGAGATGGG GGAGGCTAAC TGAG

24

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

30

(A) LENGTH: 28 base pairs

(B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

35

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

GATCCTCAGT TAGCCTCCCC CATCTCTC

5

28

Claims

1. A recombinant retroviral vector carrying a vector construct which directs the expression of a gene product capable of activating an otherwise inactive precursor into an active inhibitor of a pathogenic agent.

2. A recombinant adenovirus vector carrying a vector construct which directs the expression of a gene product capable of activating an otherwise inactive precursor into an active inhibitor of a pathogenic agent.

3. The recombinant vector of claim 1 or 2 wherein said pathogenic agent is a virus-infected cell.

4. The recombinant vector of claim 1 or 2 wherein said gene product is Herpes Simplex Virus Thymidine Kinase.

5. The recombinant vector of claim 1 or 2 wherein said gene product is Varicella Zoster Virus Thymidine Kinase.

6. The recombinant vector of claim 1 or 2 wherein said inactive precursor is AZT.

7. A recombinant retroviral vector carrying a vector construct which directs the expression of a gene product that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a toxic product.

8. A recombinant retroviral vector carrying a vector construct which directs the expression of a gene product that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a toxic product in the presence of a pathogenic agent, thereby affecting localized therapy to the pathogenic agent.

9. A recombinant adenovirus vector carrying a vector construct which directs the expression of a gene product that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a toxic product.

10. A recombinant adenovirus vector carrying a vector construct which directs the expression of a gene product that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a toxic product in the presence of a pathogenic agent, thereby affecting localized therapy to the pathogenic agent.

11. The recombinant vector according to claims 7, 8, 9 or 10 wherein said gene product is Herpes Simplex Virus Thymidine Kinase.

12. The recombinant vector according to claims 7, 8, 9 or 10 wherein said gene product is Varicella Zoster Virus Thymidine Kinase.

13. The recombinant vector according to claims 7, 8, 9 or 10 wherein said gene product is selected from the group consisting of alkaline phosphatase, fungal cytosine deaminase, carboxypeptidase G2, and Penicillin-V amidase.

14. The recombinant vector of claims 8 or 10 wherein said pathogenic agent is a virus-infected cell.

15. The recombinant vector of claims 8 or 10 wherein said pathogenic agent is a cell infected with bacteria.

16. The recombinant vector of claims 8 or 10 wherein said pathogenic agent is a tumor cell.

17. The recombinant vector of claims 8 or 10 wherein said pathogenic agent is a cell infected with a parasite.

18. A recombinant retroviral vector carrying a vector construct which directs the expression of a protein that is toxic upon processing or modification by a protein derived from a pathogenic agent.

19. A recombinant adenovirus vector carrying a vector construct which directs the expression of a protein that is toxic upon processing or modification by a protein derived from a pathogenic agent.

20. The recombinant vector of claims 18 or 19 wherein said protein that is toxic upon processing or modification is proricin.

21. A recombinant retroviral vector carrying a vector construct comprising a cytotoxic gene under the transcriptional control of an event-specific promoter, such that upon activation of the event-specific promoter said cytotoxic gene is expressed.

22. A recombinant adenovirus vector carrying a vector construct comprising a cytotoxic gene under the transcriptional control of an event-specific promoter, such that upon activation of the event-specific promoter said cytotoxic gene is expressed.

23. The recombinant vector of claims 21 or 22 wherein said event-specific promoter is a cellular thymidine kinase promoter.

24. The recombinant vector of claims 21 or 22 wherein said event-specific promoter is a thymidylate synthase promoter.

25. The recombinant vector of claims 21 or 22 wherein said event-specific promoter is activated by a hormone.

26. The recombinant vector of claims 21 or 22 wherein said cytotoxic gene is selected from the group consisting of ricin, abrin, diphtheria toxin, cholera toxin, gelonin, pokeweed, antiviral protein, tritin, Shigella toxin, and Pseudomonas exotoxin A.

27. A recombinant retroviral vector carrying a vector construct comprising a cytotoxic gene under the transcriptional control of a tissue-specific promoter, such that upon activation of the tissue-specific promoter said cytotoxic gene is expressed.

28. A recombinant adenovirus vector carrying a vector construct comprising a cytotoxic gene under the transcriptional control of a tissue-specific promoter, such that upon activation of the tissue-specific promoter said cytotoxic gene is expressed.

29. The recombinant vector of claims 27 or 28 wherein said tissue-specific promoter is the PEPCK promoter.

30. The recombinant vector of claims 27 or 28 wherein said tissue-specific promoter is selected from the group consisting of the HER2/neu promoter and the casein promoter.

31. The recombinant vector of claims 27 or 28 wherein said tissue-specific promoter is selected from the group consisting of the IgG promoter, Chorionic Embryonic Antigen promoter, elastase promoter, porphobilinogen deaminase promoter, insulin promoter, growth hormone factor promoter, tyrosine hydroxylase promoter, albumin promoter, alphafetoprotein promoter, acetyl-choline receptor promoter, alcohol dehydrogenase promoter, α or β globin promoter, T-cell receptor promoter and the osteocalcin promoter.

32. The recombinant vector of claims 27 or 28, wherein said cytotoxic gene is selected from the group consisting of ricin, abrin, diphtheria toxin, cholera toxin, gelonin, pokeweed antiviral protein, tritin, Shigella toxin, and Pseudomonas exotoxin A.

33. A recombinant retroviral vector carrying a vector construct comprising a cytotoxic gene under the transcriptional control of both an event-specific promoter and a tissue-specific promoter, such that said cytotoxic gene is maximally expressed only upon activation of both the event-specific promoter and the tissue-specific promoter.

34. A recombinant adenovirus vector carrying a vector construct comprising a cytotoxic gene under the transcriptional control of both an event-specific promoter and a tissue-specific promoter, such that said cytotoxic gene is maximally expressed only upon activation of both the event-specific promoter and the tissue-specific promoter.

35. The recombinant vector of claims 33 or 34 wherein said event-specific promoter is thymidine kinase, and said tissue-specific promoter is selected from the group consisting of the casein promoter and the HER2/neu promoter.

36. The recombinant vector of claims 33 or 34 wherein said cytotoxic gene is selected from the group consisting of ricin, abrin, diphtheria toxin, cholera toxin, gelonin, pokeweed antiviral protein, tritin, Shigella toxin, and Pseudomonas exotoxin A.

37. A recombinant retroviral vector carrying a vector construct comprising a gene product that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a toxic product, said gene product being under the transcriptional control of an event-specific promoter, such that upon activation of the event-specific promoter said gene product is expressed.

38. A recombinant adenovirus vector carrying a vector construct comprising a gene product that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a toxic product, said gene product being under the transcriptional control of an event-specific promoter, such that upon activation of the event-specific promoter said gene product is expressed.

39. The recombinant vector of claims 37 or 38 wherein said event-specific promoter is a cellular thymidine kinase promoter.

40. The recombinant vector of claims 37 or 38 wherein said tissue-specific promoter is a thymidylate synthase promoter.

41. The recombinant vector of claims 37 or 38 wherein said event-specific promoter is activated by a hormone.

42. The recombinant vector of claims 37 or 38 wherein said gene product is selected from the group consisting of *E. coli* quanine phosphoribosyl transferase, alkaline phosphatase, fungal cytosine deaminase, carboxypeptidase G2 and Penicillin-V amidase.

43. A recombinant retroviral vector carrying a vector construct comprising a gene product that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a cytotoxic product, said gene product being under the transcriptional control of a tissue-specific promoter, such that upon activation of the tissue-specific promoter said gene product is expressed.

44. A recombinant adenovirus vector carrying a vector construct comprising a gene product that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a cytotoxic product, said gene product being under the transcriptional control of a tissue-specific promoter, such that upon activation of the tissue-specific promoter said gene product is expressed.

45. The recombinant vector of claims 43 or 44 wherein said tissue-specific promoter is the PEPCK promoter.

46. The recombinant vector of claims 43 or 44 wherein said tissue-specific promoter is selected from the group consisting of the HER2/neu promoter, and the casein promoter.

47. The recombinant vector of claims 43 or 44 wherein said tissue-specific promoter is selected from the group consisting of the IgG promoter, Chorionic Embryonic Antigen promoter, elastase promoter, porphobilinogen deaminase promoter, insulin promoter, growth hormone factor promoter, tyrosine hydroxylase promoter, albumin promoter, alphafetoprotein promoter, acetyl-choline receptor promoter, alcohol dehydrogenase promoter, α or β globin promoter, T-cell receptor promoter and the osteocalcin promoter.

48. The recombinant vector of claims 43 or 44, wherein said gene product is selected from the group consisting of *E. coli* quanine phosphoribosyl transferase, alkaline phosphatase, fungal cytosine deaminase, carboxypeptidase G2 and Penicillin-V amidase.

49. A recombinant retroviral vector carrying a vector construct comprising a gene product that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a toxic product, said gene product being under the transcriptional control of both an event-specific promoter and a tissue-specific promoter, such that said gene product is maximally expressed only upon activation of both the event-specific promoter and the tissue-specific promoter.

50. A recombinant adenovirus vector carrying a vector construct comprising a gene product that activates a compound with little or no cytotoxicity into a toxic product, said gene product being under the transcriptional control of both an event-specific promoter and a tissue-specific promoter, such that said gene product is maximally expressed only upon activation of both the event-specific promoter and the tissue-specific promoter.

51. The recombinant vector of claims 49 or 50 wherein said event-specific promoter is thymidine kinase, and said tissue-specific promoter is the casein promoter.

52. The recombinant vector of claims 49 or 50 wherein said gene product is selected from the group consisting of alkaline phosphatase, fungal cytosine deaminase, carboxypeptidase G2, and Penicillin-V amidase.

53. The recombinant vector according to any one of claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 18, 19, 21, 22, 27, 28, 33, 34, 37, 38, 43, 44, 49 or 50, wherein said vector construct directs the expression of an additional non-vector derived gene.